



NSW National Parks  
and Wildlife Service

**FREE GUIDE**



# 2009–10 guide TO NSW NATIONAL PARKS

Activities  
& REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Park Information  
FEES | FACILITIES

Maps  
STATE | REGIONAL

Safety  
INFORMATION



**FIND YOURSELF**  
IN A NSW NATIONAL PARK

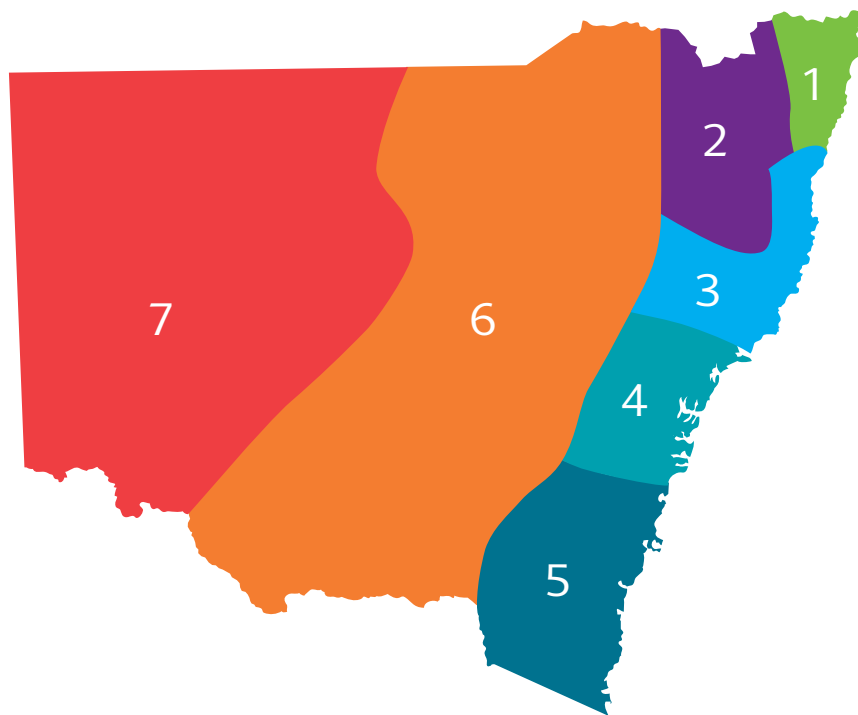
# Welcome to the 2009–10 Guide to NSW National Parks

Discover the extraordinary nature of the national parks and reserves of NSW.

Covering a wild diversity of landscapes and habitats, from lush rainforests and deserted beaches to granite gorges and rugged bush, our national parks and reserves provide sanctuary for our precious fauna and flora and protect valuable natural, cultural and historic heritage.

The national parks of NSW provide countless opportunities for recreation and adventure all year round. Minutes from the centre of Sydney you'll find harbour-side native bushland parks, great for a family day out. Further afield, explore pristine rainforests, ancient tablelands, alpine high country, marine parks and outback deserts.

In this year's guide, you'll find maps, regional highlights and individual entries on the things to see and do in over 200 parks and reserves around the state. You're sure to discover something truly breathtaking, something that leaves a life-long impression.



FRONT COVER: Explore your national parks and reserves on a *Discovery* walk, talk or tour. Sydney Harbour National Park.  
Photo: D.Smith/DECCW

- 1 Northern Rivers**  
Lush, misty, cool rainforests clinging to ancient volcanoes. Tumbling rivers, marine reserves guarding creatures of the sea. Blue waves crashing against gleaming sand. Refresh yourself ... stay a while.
- 2 New England Tablelands**  
Rugged wilderness of dramatic rock outcrops and deep gorges. Soothing waterfalls tumbling through lush rainforests. An environment so splendid, so diverse, calling you to explore ...
- 3 Hunter and Mid North Coast**  
Wilderness so diverse — subtropical, moist eucalypt and warm-temperate environments. Towering rainforest trees, hundreds of years old, stretching high above. Rivers, lakes, beaches just waiting to be discovered.
- 4 Sydney and Surrounds**  
Iconic Sydney Harbour — history, mystery and native bushland thriving alongside a bustling metropolis. Only an hour to the World Heritage Blue Mountains — just one of more than 40 parks to explore in and around the city.
- 5 South Coast and Highlands**  
Blue waves lapping on a pristine beach as dolphins glide past. Colourful parrots in towering forests. Snow capped alps. Spectacular, refreshing and diverse — the true splendour of nature.
- 6 Central NSW**  
The ancient volcanic spires of the Warrumbungles. A night sky ablaze with stars. A region to explore, to discover, where natural and cultural heritage — and warm hospitality — abound.
- 7 Outback NSW**  
Endless space, endless time. A land of open deserts, great red kangaroos, awesome sunsets, infinite stars at night and Aboriginal heritage reaching back to the dawn of human history.

# Get the facts

Any questions? Call Environment Line on 1300 361 967

Once you've decided on an experience or activity, you'll need to choose a park or reserve that has what you're after.

Or maybe you have a holiday destination in mind and want to research park options before you leave. And your local parks and reserves — have you really explored all they have to offer?

The symbols used in this guide provide basic information. If you have further questions, call Environment Line on 1300 361 967. The friendly staff can give you information on top places for a family picnic, where's good for camping, what annual pass is best for you ... and lots more.

They'll also give you information on native animals and plants, *Discovery* tours, and obtaining a licence to keep a native animal.






















The DECCW websites give further information on the parks in this guide, and valuable advice to help you plan your next visit. This includes:

- ▶ detailed descriptions of the state's popular parks
- ▶ picnic/barbecue areas
- ▶ car, 4WD and cycling routes
- ▶ activities from birdwatching to adventure recreation
- ▶ searches to help find a park, camping area, park accommodation or walking track
- ▶ each park's plants and animals, history and culture
- ▶ up-to-date info on bushfire alerts, fire bans and park closures
- ▶ *Discovery* walks, talks and tours.

See the websites:

**[www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)**  
**[www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)**  
**[www.mpa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.mpa.nsw.gov.au)**

## Symbols used in the Guide

	Aboriginal site		Horse riding
	Accommodation		Kiosk
	Barbecue		Picnic area
	Boat ramp		Public transport
	Camping area		Showers
	Canoeing/kayaking		Swimming
	Caravan site		Toilets
	Cycling		Vehicle entry fee
	Diving/snorkelling		Walking tracks
	Fishing		Wheelchair access
	Historic site		World Heritage

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## TYPES OF PARKS

AA	Aboriginal Area
AR	Aquatic Reserve
CCA	Community Conservation Area
HS	Historic Site
KCR	Karst Conservation Reserve
MP	Marine Park
NP	National Park
NR	Nature Reserve
RP	Regional Park
SCA	State Conservation Area





# Camping

Wake up to a crisp morning, breakfast cooking in the open air. No traffic and the chorus of birds the only noise — just sit back and watch the morning unfold.

And then a walk, or perhaps a swim before lunch, a lazy afternoon in the shade and dinner under the stars.

That's camping in a NSW national park.

You'll find excellent facilities for camping and caravanning in parks across the state. So many, in fact, that you're sure to find a place to pitch your tent far from neighbours — unless you count inquisitive wildlife such as cheeky possums and lorikeets.

It's all so easy, so accessible and so affordable.

- ▶ Park camp grounds range from remote bushland clearings to sites with full vehicle access, flush toilets, hot showers and gas barbecues.
- ▶ In this guide, camping is divided into sites that are accessible to **caravans or campervans**; **car-based camping** where you can pitch a tent next to your car; and **backpack camping**, where you'll need to carry your gear in and out, and you'll find minimal or no facilities.



- ▶ Camping fees reflect the quality and facilities of the site; it's best to check with local park offices for details.

Whatever you choose, you can look forward to cosy nights and sweet dreams in nature's wonderland.

ABOVE: Bouddi National Park.  
Photo: B.Peters/DECCW

## STAYING SAFE IN NATIONAL PARKS

It's great to escape city life and go bushwalking, cycling, picnicking or driving in national parks and reserves. However, these are natural environments so you need to take some precautions. Many parks are remote and rugged places, weather can change quickly, rivers, lakes and the sea may be unpredictable. The wildlife in national parks should always be treated with respect and you should avoid approaching or feeding them. When visiting national parks be aware of the risks and take responsibility for your own safety and the safety of any children in your care. Remember to plan ahead, and choose your walks and activities to match your stamina and fitness level.

### Plan ahead

Check park conditions before you go (see contact numbers in the back of the guide or individual park entries), and tell someone where you are going, who is with you, what maps and equipment you have and when you expect to return. Go in a group of three or more — in an emergency this allows one to stay with an injured or ill person and one or more to go for help. Make sure the group takes adequate water; that your activity is something which all participants in your group are able to do; and that the group is suitably led.

### In the park

- ▶ Carry a map, keep to the tracks and stay behind safety fences.
- ▶ Supervise all children closely.
- ▶ Always carry sufficient water for your group. It is not safe to drink from (or rely on) creeks or streams.
- ▶ Know your route, advise friends of your plans, and let them know when you return.
- ▶ Make sure you completely extinguish all fires before leaving an area or going to bed (if camping). A small amount of glowing embers can start a huge bushfire.
- ▶ Take great care near cliff edges and below cliffs — many cliffs are unstable. Be on the lookout for falling rocks, uneven or slippery surfaces, and cliff edges.

- ▶ Don't feed or touch animals — some may become aggressive scavengers.
- ▶ Be aware that during nesting season some native birds may swoop — wear a hat or carry an open umbrella as a precaution.
- ▶ If you see a snake, leave it alone and don't panic. Stand still or stamp — snakes nearly always move away when they feel footstep vibrations. Don't attempt to kill it — you could be bitten (and all snakes are protected).
- ▶ If you want to swim in lakes or rivers, check the water depth and temperature first and never dive or jump into the water because there could be hidden rocks, logs and other debris.
- ▶ Be on the lookout for falling branches from trees, particularly when windy or during storms, and avoid camping beneath overhanging trees.
- ▶ If you encounter a flooded stream change your route, or turn back. Don't attempt to cross fast-flowing streams.
- ▶ For longer walks involving navigational skill, you can borrow a personal locator beacon (PLB). See page 43 for information on emergency beacons. You can also find more information about being safe in the bush at [www.police.nsw.gov.au/community\\_issues/crime\\_prevention/programs/trek](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/community_issues/crime_prevention/programs/trek)

### Checklist for longer walks

As well as a first aid kit for the group everyone should be equipped with:

- ▶ topographic map(s) and a compass and know how to use them
- ▶ a space blanket, hat and sun protection
- ▶ warm waterproof clothing
- ▶ plastic bags for rubbish
- ▶ plenty of water and ample food
- ▶ matches and torches.

For more safety tips see pages 33, 39, 43, 65, 71 and 83. You can also visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parksafety/](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parksafety/)



# Annual Pass and Day-use Fees

Vehicle entry fees apply to only 46 of the more than 790 national parks and reserves in NSW. These fees make a contribution to building and maintaining facilities in our national parks and reserves and help fund conservation projects.

A day or annual pass must be clearly displayed on your vehicle while you're in these parks or you may be fined. Some parks have coin-operated 'pay and display' machines, so you'll need to have a supply of change — call ahead to check, or visit our website: [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au).

## Choose your annual pass

If you're a regular national parks visitor, you can save time and money by buying an annual pass — call 02 9585 6068 or go to [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au) for details. Different passes give your vehicle year-round access to a selection of NSW national parks. Select the pass that suits you best from the table below.

And remember you can upgrade your pass at any time (conditions and an administration fee apply). Please note: lost, misplaced or unused passes will not be replaced or refunded. Annual passes are only valid for use for privately used vehicles of up to 8 seats.

## Concessions and exemptions

A concession applies to holders of NSW Seniors Cards and an exemption applies to NSW Pensioner Concession Cardholders

— conditions apply. Please contact the DECCW Annual Pass Centre for more information.

Annual passes do not cover parks and facilities managed by other agencies or community groups, such as Worimi Conservation Lands and Booderee National Park at Jervis Bay and parks in the ACT.

Fees that are not covered by your day or annual pass include:

- ▶ camping fees
- ▶ entry to museums
- ▶ *Discovery* program tours
- ▶ landing fees at The Basin in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park
- ▶ landing fees for islands in Sydney Harbour National Park
- ▶ vehicle entry to Worimi Conservation Lands.

## Applying for an annual pass

To apply for an annual pass, pick up a brochure or application form from any major NPWS office (see back cover), or visit our website at [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au).

For further information contact the DECCW Annual Pass Centre:





**Phone** 02 9585 6068

**Fax** 02 9585 6831

**Mail** PO Box 1967  
Hurstville NSW 148

**Email** [annualpasses@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:annualpasses@environment.nsw.gov.au)

## Select the pass that suits your lifestyle

	Type of pass	1-year	2-year	Benefits
	Single Country Park Pass	\$22	\$40	Vehicle entry to any ONE designated national park in country* NSW except Kosciuszko
	Seniors	\$17	\$30	
	Country Parks Pass	\$45	\$75	Vehicle entry to national parks in country* NSW except Kosciuszko
	Seniors	\$35	\$60	
	Multi Park Pass	\$65	\$115	Vehicle entry to national parks in NSW except Kosciuszko
	Seniors	\$50	\$90	
	All Parks Pass	\$190	\$335	Vehicle entry to ALL parks in NSW, including Kosciuszko
	Seniors	\$152	\$268	
	2nd household All Parks Pass	\$95	\$167.50	For additional vehicles registered at the same address (conditions apply).

\* See [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au) for a listing of Country Pass parks  
Fees and locations subject to change.

## FOUNDATION FOR NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE

Explore the natural wonders of our national parks and help protect some of Australia's most iconic places, plants and animals.

Donations from the public have helped the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife look after our natural and cultural heritage for almost 40 years. These donations have protected more than 40 threatened species and added 350 000 hectares of habitat and iconic landscapes to 26 national parks and nature reserves.

If you pledged your support in the past 12 months alone, you have helped raise more than \$1.5 million, which has funded 25 conservation projects for our parks and their wildlife.

Your donation of money or property, or considering the Foundation in your will, can protect a piece of Australia forever or save a species from extinction.

Contact us today to find out how you can support your national parks and the plants and animals which call them home. Phone 02 9221 1949, email [fnpw@fnpw.org.au](mailto:fnpw@fnpw.org.au), or write to us at GPO Box 2666, Sydney NSW 2001. For more information, see the website at [www.fnpw.org.au](http://www.fnpw.org.au)



# Northern Rivers

MAP REFERENCE	PAGE		
① Arakwal NP	6	⑭ Moore Park NP	9
② Border Ranges NP	6	⑮ Mount Warning NP	9
③ Broadwater NP	6	⑯ Nightcap NP	9
④ Broken Head NR	6	⑰ Richmond Range NP	9
⑤ Brunswick Heads NR	6	⑱ Solitary Islands MP	10
⑥ Bundjalung NP	6	⑲ Tooloom NP	10
⑦ Cape Byron MP	7	⑳ Toonumbar NP	10
⑧ Cape Byron SCA	7	㉑ Tweed Heads HS	10
⑨ Cook Island AR	8	㉒ Tyagarah NR	10
⑩ Cudgen NR	8	㉓ Victoria Park NR	11
⑪ Iluka NR	8	㉔ Whian Whian SCA	11
⑫ Koreelah NP	8	㉕ Yuraygir NP	11
⑬ Mebbin NP	8		





## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REGION

The lush rainforests of the Northern Rivers cling to ancient volcanoes, cool green channels shading rivers that tumble to the sea. The World Heritage Gondwana Rainforests are the jewel of the region's national parks, ancient places where time seems to stand still. Long open beaches are perfect for swimming, while marine parks safeguard the underwater wonders of the Solitary Islands off Coffs Harbour and Julian Rocks at Byron Bay, brilliant for diving and snorkelling.

**More information:** [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/north](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/north)  
[www.visitnsw.com.au](http://www.visitnsw.com.au)



Enjoy a unique lighthouse cottage stay at **Cape Byron State Conservation Area**.



Learn about local Aboriginal culture on a guided tour of **Tweed Heads Historic Site**.



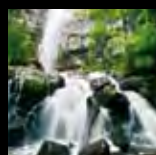
Experience World Heritage rainforests on a walk in **Border Ranges National Park**.



Discover the underwater wonders of **Solitary Islands Marine Park**.



Camp near the beach at **Woody Head in Bundjalung National Park**.



Pack a picnic and visit the breathtaking **Protestors Falls in Nightcap National Park**.

**FAR LEFT:** Cool off in the crystal clear waters of Cape Byron Marine Park, home to a diversity of marine life. Photo: A.Taylor, courtesy Tourism NSW.

**LEFT:** Enjoy a stroll in the sub-tropical climes of Border Ranges National Park. Photo H.Lund, courtesy Tourism NSW





## 1 Arakwal

NATIONAL PARK 186 ha



**Highlights** Created in 2001 as the result of a historic agreement with the Byron Bay Arakwal Aboriginal community, Arakwal National Park protects important natural and cultural heritage and is co-managed with the traditional owners.

**Activities** Enjoy 3 km of secluded unpatrolled beach backed by coastal heath.

**Access** 2 km south-east of Byron Bay township along Tallow Beach Road.

**Byron Bay, phone 6620 9300**

## 2 Border Ranges

NATIONAL PARK 31,729 ha



**Camping fee levels** 2 3

**Highlights** A park within the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area on the rim of a vast, ancient volcano. Pinnacle Lookout offers views of Mt Warning, the escarpment and all the way to the coast. The park is a haven for native fauna such as Albert's lyrebird and the pouched frog.

**Activities** Explore tall forests, waterfalls and gorges on the walking track network. The spectacular Tweed Scenic Drive (unsealed, but suitable for 2WD when dry) loops from Murwillumbah to Kyogle and Lismore. There's car-based camping at Sheep Station Creek (suitable for caravans; accessible toilets) or Forest Tops (short walk from carpark), and opportunities for extended backpack camping treks.

**Access** 38 km west of Murwillumbah, off Summerland Way or Kyogle Road. Unsealed roads. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Kyogle, phone 6632 0000**

BELOW: Discover the tall forests, waterfalls and gorges of Border Ranges National Park. Photo: M.Newling, courtesy Tourism NSW.



## 3 Broadwater

NATIONAL PARK 4226 ha



**Highlights** The main attraction of this park is 8 km of beach, dunes and sand ridges backed by coastal heath and wetlands. In spring, honeyeaters flock to the golden bush peas, sun orchids and other wildflowers.

**Activities** The picnic area and lookout off the Broadwater—Evans Head Road provide views of the park's diverse vegetation.

**Access** 3 km north of Evans Head via the Broadwater—Evans Head Road.

**Alstonville, phone 6627 0200**

## 4 Broken Head

NATURE RESERVE 98 ha



**Highlights** Gullies shielded by banksias allow rainforest to grow right down to the beach. Shallow bays provide secluded, unpatrolled beaches, and in winter this is a great spot for whale watching.

**Activities** Take the track from the Broken Head caravan park along the cliff top to enjoy spectacular coastal views. Or stop for a swim at Broken Head or Whites Beach.

**Access** 4 km south of Byron Bay, off Coast Road.

**Byron Bay, phone 6620 9300**

## 5 Brunswick Heads

NATURE RESERVE 204 ha



**Highlights** Along with Broken Head and Tyagarah reserves, this reserve forms a vital local stepping stone for migrating birds. Plant and animal species from north and south-east Australia overlap here, providing unusually diverse communities.

**Activities** Relax with a quiet picnic, a bushwalk or a spot of river fishing. A short walk from the carpark takes in the rare coastal rainforest and opens onto the breakwater on the north bank of the Brunswick River.

**Access** 20 km north of Byron Bay at Brunswick Heads, just off the Pacific Highway.

**North: Murwillumbah, phone 6670 8600**  
**South: Byron Bay, phone 6620 9300**

## 6 Bundjalung

NATIONAL PARK 20,116 ha



**Camping fee levels** 3 4

**Highlights** Ten Mile Beach forms part of Bundjalung's 38 km of protected coastline. The Esk River, the largest untouched coastal river system on the north coast, runs through the southern half of the park. Other features include the Jerusalem Creek Peninsula, freshwater lagoons, mangrove mud flats and coastal heathlands.

**Activities** The beaches (unpatrolled) suit surfing, fishing and swimming and the Esk River and Jerusalem Creek are popular for canoeing. There's car-based camping at Black Rocks (unsealed 2WD road or 4WD beach access from Shark Bay. No bookings taken). No drinking water or showers are available at Black Rocks. Campers must bring their own water. Camping, caravan and cabin accommodation is available at Woody Head — see below (bookings essential). There are five picnic areas near Iluka, including Iluka Bluff, which has a great whale-watching lookout and cultural heritage display in the picnic shelter.

## Woody Head

CAMPING AREA BUNDJALUNG NATIONAL PARK



**Phone: 6646 6134**

**Camping fee level** 4

Nestled behind Woody Bluff, 6 km from Iluka, Woody Head is a sheltered grassy camping area with a lovely northern outlook toward Evans Head. There are 103 sites including a group camping area with cooking shelter (all non-powered), as well as several cabins for hire.

You can swim in the protected waters of Woody Head Bay, go fishing or snorkelling, or look for interesting sea life in the rockpools at low tide.

**Access** For Black Rocks Camping Area — 5 km south of Woodburn turn left into Gap Road. For Woody Head Camping — 50 km south of Ballina, 60 km north of Grafton off the Pacific Highway on Iluka Road. Vehicle entry fees \$7 per day for both areas.

**North: Alstonville, phone 6627 0200**  
**South: Grafton, phone 6641 1500**

## 7 Cape Byron

MARINE PARK 22,700 ha



**Highlights** Local marine habitats include a range of exposed and sheltered sandy beaches, rocky shores, rocky reefs, submerged pinnacles, small rocky islands, coral communities, riverine estuaries, coastal creeks and lakes, and a variety of sandy seabed habitats.

Marine life includes many species of dolphins, seabirds, turtles, fish, seaweeds, and invertebrates such as sponges, corals and anemones. Threatened marine species that occur in the Cape Byron Marine Park include little terns, grey nurse sharks and sea turtles. Humpback whales travel through the park on their annual migration.

Sites within the marine park that have been identified as particularly culturally significant to Indigenous people include Julian Rocks, Cocked Hat Rocks, Cape Byron and beaches around Broken Head.

**Activities** Cape Byron Marine Park is a multiple-use marine park which includes protected areas where fishing and collecting are prohibited, and general-use areas which support both commercial and recreational fishing. Phone 6620 9300 or check out the NSW Marine Park Authority's website ([www.mpa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.mpa.nsw.gov.au)) for the Cape Byron Marine Park Zoning Plan.

**Access** Cape Byron Marine Park extends from the Brunswick River to Lennox Head and from mean high water out to three nautical miles from the coast or islands. It includes the tidal waters of the Brunswick River, Belongil and Tallow creeks. Vehicle entry fee \$7 at lighthouse precinct (\$2 motorbikes), \$2 per hour at The Pass and Tallow beach carparks.

**Byron Bay, phone 6620 9300**

## 8 Cape Byron

STATE CONSERVATION AREA 99 ha



**Highlights** The cape's lighthouse has stood on the most easterly point of the Australian mainland for more than a century, and today you can take a tour of the lighthouse. The rugged headland, surrounded by sheltered rainforest gullies and subtropical waters, is a great spot for watching turtles, dolphins and humpback whales on their annual migration.

**Activities** The magnificent cliff-top walking track winds its way through diverse plant communities, offering panoramic views of the ocean and north coast hinterland. You can tour Cape Byron Lighthouse (phone 6685 5955 for bookings) and even stay the night in the lighthouse keeper's quarters (bookings essential, phone 6685 6552). Walkways and toilets are wheelchair-accessible, though inside the lighthouse and other buildings are not.

**Access** 2 km east of Byron Bay along Lighthouse Road. A vehicle entry fee applies to Cape Byron Lighthouse precinct and Tallow Beach and The Pass carparks.

**Byron Bay, phone 6620 9300**

### ACCOMMODATION

## Cape Byron Lighthouse Cottages

Cape Byron Lighthouse Cottages.  
Photos: M. Van Ewijk/DECCW

Imagine seeing the sun rise over the ocean at the most easterly point of the Australian mainland — Cape Byron — enjoying the welcome sight of seabirds and dolphins and, perhaps, a breaching humpback whale.

Staying at the former lighthouse keepers cottages puts you at Cape Byron well before the day's visitors arrive and long after they've left. You'll see the iconic lighthouse beam sweep across the ocean at night, as the stars blaze above. You'll see the cape's mood change with the

whim of the weather, and be part of the multicultural mix drawn there each day.

You can stay in either of the two cottages for 3-7 nights. Cottage One can accommodate 4 people, Cottage Two can sleep 6.

You'll soon see why this rugged headland is bathed in Aboriginal and European heritage — it's a spiritual, magical place of natural and cultural significance.

Clarks Beach cottage is another great place to stay at Cape Byron. Situated right on Clarks Beach, this unique cottage is only minutes from the town centre. It's an ideal location for swimming, surfing, whale-watching and enjoying the magnificent views across the bay to the hinterland.

**For more information and bookings**  
**Phone:** 02 6685 6552  
**Email:** [holidays@byronbaypro.com.au](mailto:holidays@byronbaypro.com.au)  
**Web:** [www.byronbaypro.com.au](http://www.byronbaypro.com.au)





## 9 Cook Island

AQUATIC RESERVE 78 ha



**Highlights** The island has a varied marine life resulting from the warm east-Australian current from the north converging with cooler currents from the south. Temperate, subtropical and tropical species of fish, crustaceans and molluscs are found around the island.

The island is also visited or inhabited by a number of protected species including the giant Queensland groper, black cod, estuary cod and the grey nurse shark.

**Activities** Swimming, whale watching, boating and diving are popular recreational activities in the area. Fishing and collecting are restricted to defined areas and fishing by setlines is prohibited within the whole aquatic reserve. **No fishing, invertebrate collecting, baitweed collecting or spearfishing is allowed in the inner sanctuary.**

Recreational fishing competitions within the outer zone of the reserve require a permit.

**Access** By boat only, with numerous boat ramps situated within the Tweed River estuary. The reserve is located approximately 600 m offshore from Fingal Head and 4 km south-east of Tweed Heads and encircles Cook Island.

**Port Stephens, phone 4916 3826**

BELOW: The lush rainforest of World Heritage-listed Mount Warning National Park offers invigorating short walks and picnicking opportunities.  
Photo: G.Turner, courtesy Tourism NSW



## 10 Cudgen

NATURE RESERVE 917 ha



**Highlights** Sea turtles have been recorded nesting on the beach and a small population of koalas inhabits the forest around the lake and the Round Mountain area. The lake, coastal rainforest and heathland offer a wintering spot for birds, bats and flying-foxes, and the beach and dunes make for a pleasant swim.

**Activities** The picnic area beside Cudgen Lake has free electric barbecues and opportunities for canoeing and swimming. Enjoy a walk beside the lake with the backdrop of Mt Warning to the west.

**Access** 20 km east of Murwillumbah on Clothiers Creek Road off the Pacific Highway.

**Murwillumbah, phone 6670 8600**

## 11 Iluka

NATURE RESERVE 136 ha



**Highlights** This treasure within the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area — home to a superb range of bird life — is a small but very valuable remnant of what was once an extensive coastal rainforest. The reserve is an important part of a coastal network of parks that includes Broadwater, Bundjalung and Yuraygir national parks.

**Activities** Strolling the level (wheelchair-accessible) 2.5-km walk from Iluka Bluff to Iluka is the best way to see the park's tall canopy of riberry and lilly pilly trees, intertwined with strangler figs.

**Access** Located in Iluka, on Iluka Road off the Pacific Highway. The reserve can be reached via Iluka village from Long Street or the Iluka Bluff picnic area.

**Grafton, phone 6641 1500**

## 12 Koreelah

NATIONAL PARK 5270 ha



**Camping fee level 2**

**Highlights** Pockets of rainforest within the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area hug steep slopes below Acacia Plateau and Wilsons Peak. Keep an eye out for the endangered Coxen's fig-parrot or the threatened brush-tailed rock-wallaby.

**Activities** There's a pleasant car-based camping spot at the small grassy area beside Koreelah Creek (unsealed road but suitable for 2WD in dry weather).

**Access** 30 km west of Woodenbong on White Swamp Road (unsealed) off Summerland Way at Old Koreelah.

**Kyogle, phone 6632 0000**

## 13 Mebbin

NATIONAL PARK 3800 ha



**Camping fee level 2**

**Highlights** Mebbin shares its western boundary with Border Ranges National Park and forms part of the rim of the Mt Warning volcano. It's made up of dry eucalypt and rainforest, with a small section of old-growth forest.

**Activities** Picnicking and car-based camping (fees apply) are available at Cutters Camp rest area (mostly unsealed road but suitable for 2WD, except during heavy wet weather). From Cutters Camp you can take a 450-metre walking track through subtropical rainforest — including a stand of ancient figs — ending at Byrill Creek.

BELOW: Spot whales on a Discovery tour in Iluka Nature Reserve.  
Photo: DECCW





**Access** 32 km south-west of Murwillumbah on Byrill Creek Road (unsealed) off Tyalgum Road. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Murwillumbah, phone 6670 8600**

## 14 Moore Park

**NATURE RESERVE** 15 ha



**Highlights** This reserve protects one of the last remnants of 'Boyds Scrub'. Several stands of gallery rainforest, including black bean and silky oak, provide habitat for a large colony of black flying-foxes and endangered grey-headed flying-foxes.

**Activities** Do a little bushwalking or bird-watching, or stop for a barbecue or quiet picnic beside the upper reaches of the Richmond River.

**Access** 26 km north-west of Kyogle off the Summerland Way near Old Grevillia.

**Kyogle, phone 6632 0000**

## 15 Mount Warning

**NATIONAL PARK** 2455 ha



**Highlights** Mt Warning, the heart of this World Heritage-listed park, is the remnant central plug of an ancient volcano. Known as Wollumbin to the local Bundjalung people, Mt Warning is a place of great significance in cultural lore and spiritual education.

**Activities** Under Bundjalung law, only certain people can climb Wollumbin, so we encourage visitors to respect the Indigenous heritage. The track is a steep 9-km return trip, with a challenging rock scramble at the end. As an alternative, enjoy a stroll along the 200-m Lyrebird Track or a picnic at Korrumbyn picnic area. Car-based and caravan camping is available at a privately run caravan park in the area.

**Access** 12 km south-west of Murwillumbah off Kyogle Road.

**Murwillumbah, phone 6670 8600**

## 16 Nightcap

**NATIONAL PARK** 8080 ha



**Highlights** The lush Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area rainforests of Nightcap National Park was preserved by a determined group of conservationists in the 1980s.

The Mt Nardi and Minyon Falls areas are easily accessible by car and offer breathtaking views.

**Activities** The picnic area near the awesome 100-metre Minyon Falls provides a great start to the 30-km Minyon Drive (unsealed). There is a range of short to medium tracks for the experienced walker, or you can take the shaded 1.4-km return walk from Terania Creek picnic area (accessible by unsealed roads) to the breathtaking Protestors Falls (swimming not permitted). The old Tunttable Falls track has been closed and no access to the falls is provided due to threatened frog habitat and public safety. No fires are permitted in the park; portable fuel stoves only.

**Access** 35 km north of Lismore. Whian Whian Forest Drive (unsealed) is off the Lismore—Mullumbimby road.

**Alstonville, phone 6627 0200**

## 17 Richmond Range

**NATIONAL PARK** 15,712 ha



**Camping fee level** 2

**Highlights** The extensive old-growth forests and rainforests of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area, including the rare Richmond Range spotted gum, provide habitats for a huge range of native fauna.

**Activities** The Cambridge Plateau Scenic Drive runs the length of the southern half of the park, providing ready access to rainforest scenery (unsealed but suitable for 2WD in dry weather; caravans not advisable). Car-based camping is available at Peacock Creek. From the Cambridge Plateau picnic area, take a short rainforest stroll or a two-hour loop walk along Culmaran Valley (medium grade — steep steps at beginning).

**Access** 45 km west of Casino via the Bruxner Highway, then the Cambridge Plateau Forest Drive. Access to Bonalbo via Peacock Creek Road out of the park and access to Kyogle from Cambridge Plateau Scenic Drive via Sextonville Road is strictly 4WD dry weather only. The only safe 2WD entry and exit point from the park is via Mallanganee off the Bruxner Highway 45 km west of Casino. Roads are closed during wet weather.

**Kyogle, phone 6632 0000**

## ACCOMMODATION

### Partridge Cottage

Reflecting the days when a beach holiday was a simple family affair, Partridge Cottage is one of last remaining north coast beach shacks dating from the 1950s.

And what a beach — the cottage has direct access to Byron Bay's main beach, a haven for sun lovers and surfers from all over the world.

The cottage overlooks Cape Byron Marine Park, a great place to snorkel or scuba dive, and its spacious front veranda is perfect for enjoying the bushland location with native animal and birdlife.

Follow the bush track to Cape Byron and its lighthouse, an icon for the region, and stand on the most easterly point of the Australian mainland. Cape Byron also offers some of the best land-based whale watching during their mid-year migration.

This is simple beachside living, yet the restaurants and bars of Byron Bay are just a stroll away.

The cottage sleeps seven, perfect for families and groups.

**For more information and bookings**

**Phone : 02 6685 6552**

**Fax : 02 6685 7685**

**Email:**

**holidays@byronbaypro.com.au**

**Web: www.byronbaypro.com.au**



Partridge Cottage.  
Photo: M. Van Ewijk/DECCW



## 18 Solitary Islands

MARINE PARK 71,100 ha



**Highlights** This marine park shelters over 550 species of fish, four species of turtle and around 90 species of coral. There are colourful sea slugs and plenty of marine mammals, including migrating humpback whales during colder months.

**Activities** If you're a water enthusiast, Solitary Islands has everything — diving, snorkelling, swimming, surfing, beach walking, whale watching, birdwatching, fishing and boating. You can camp in the adjacent Yuraygir National Park (north of Red Rock), or you'll find accommodation in Coffs Harbour, Woolgoolga, Wooli, Red Rock and numerous other places in the area. Special rules apply in the marine park, and zoning maps are available from tourist information centres, bait and tackle stores, dive shops and the marine park office.

**Access** The marine park stretches for 75 km along the coast north of Coffs Harbour. Access is from sealed roads off the Pacific Highway.

**NSW Marine Parks Authority, phone 6652 0900**

BELOW: Dive or snorkel in the protected waters of Solitary Islands Marine Park.  
Photo: MPA



## 19 Tooloom

NATIONAL PARK 4380 ha



**Highlights** The Tooloom Scrub rainforest is within the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area and includes important areas of red and flooded gum. There are 10 species of kangaroos and wallabies in the park, including the threatened long-nosed potoroo.

**Activities** A sealed road on the southern edge provides access to the Tooloom picnic area and lookout (pit toilets). A 500-metre walking track from the picnic area offers an easy introduction to the Tooloom Scrub. Backpack camping is permitted in the park, but suitable sites are limited.

**Access** 10 km south-west of Urbenville via the Urbenville—Legume road.

**Kyogle, phone 6632 0000**

## 20 Toonumbar

NATIONAL PARK 14,991 ha



**Camping fee level** 2

**Highlights** Extensive subtropical rainforests protect threatened plants and animals, including the sooty owl, red-legged pademelon and yellow-bellied glider. The rainforests of Dome Mountain and the Murray Scrub are part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area.

**Activities** The Murray Scrub walking track provides access to World Heritage rainforest. It takes two to three hours and is mostly easy. Car-based and caravan camping are available at Iron Pot Creek (wheelchair-accessible toilets).

**Access** 25 km west of Kyogle via the Afterlee Road (part unsealed but suitable for 2WD in dry weather). Roads may be closed during wet weather.

**Kyogle, phone 6632 0000**

## 21 Tweed Heads

HISTORIC SITE 8 ha



**Highlights** The cultural centre, museum and Minjungbal's ceremonial site offer an insight into local Aboriginal culture.

**Activities** A boardwalk and walking track (both wheelchair-accessible) run along the Ukerebagh Passage estuary, overlooking the nearby Ukerebagh Island Nature Reserve. The local Goori people conduct guided tours.

**Access** Located in South Tweed Heads on Kirkwood Road off the Pacific Highway.

**Murwillumbah, phone 6670 8600  
Minjungbal Cultural Centre,  
phone (07) 5524 2109**

## 22 Tyagarah

NATURE RESERVE 800 ha



**Highlights** Tyagarah is a thin strip of protected coast encompassing 7 km of secluded and unspoiled beach backed by coastal heath.

RIGHT: Get active in Yuraygir National Park, the longest stretch of undeveloped coastline in NSW.  
Photo: G.Turner, courtesy Tourism NSW.

**Activities** Have a quiet walk, or indulge in a spot of birdwatching within a stone's throw of Byron Bay township. There are picnic facilities at the beach. Camping is not permitted.

**Access** 10 km north of Byron Bay along Grays Lane (unsealed sections) off the Pacific Highway. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Byron Bay, phone 6620 9300**

## 23 Victoria Park

NATURE RESERVE 18 ha



**Highlights** One of the last remnants of the 'Big Scrub' — a lowland rainforest that once covered 75,000 hectares of northern NSW. Over 150 tree species have been recorded in this one small reserve.

**Activities** Take an easy, delightful stroll along the accessible boardwalk loop and enjoy the variety of animals that inhabit the rainforest. Picnic facilities include communal cooking area, gas barbecues, toilets and picnic tables.

**Access** 7 km south of Alstonville on the Wardell Road. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Alstonville, phone 6627 0200**

## 24 Whian Whian

STATE CONSERVATION AREA 2439 ha



**Camping fee level** 3

**Highlights** Created in 2003 to protect an area surrounded by Nightcap National Park, this park is home to threatened species such as the spotted-tailed quoll, koala and Albert's lyrebird.

**Activities** Camp or picnic in the rainforest at Rummery Park and enjoy a short walk up Boggy Creek to Minyon Falls within Nightcap National Park.

**Access** 35 km north of Lismore via Minyon Drive off the Lismore—Mullumbimby road.

**Alstonville, phone 6627 0200**

## 25 Yuraygir

NATIONAL PARK 30,955 ha



**Camping fee levels** 1 3

**Highlights** 60 km of striking cliffs, rocky headlands, isolated beaches and quiet lake systems set against a backdrop of forests, heaths, estuaries and wetlands make Yuraygir the longest stretch of undeveloped coastline in NSW.

**Activities** Boardwalks, walking tracks and picnic spots scattered throughout the park provide a range of opportunities to appreciate the scenery. There's car-based and caravan camping at Red Cliff, Lake Arragan, Sandon River and Illaroo, and car-based camping at Station Creek.

**Access** 50 km east of Grafton. Red Cliff, Lake Arragan and Sandon River are 15 km south-east of Maclean along Brooms Head Road (partially unsealed). Illaroo is 47 km east of Grafton via Wooli Road and Minnie Water Road (off the Pacific Highway 12 km south of Grafton). Station Creek is 14 km north of Woolgoolga via Barcoongerie Way (unsealed). Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Grafton, phone 6641 1500**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER

The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW (DECCW) is the NSW government agency primarily responsible for working with the community to protect and conserve our environment. The National Parks and Wildlife Service is part of DECCW.

DECCW has a wide-ranging environment and conservation role which includes our natural and cultural environments and their inhabitants. Some of the priority areas for DECCW include reducing pollution of our air, land and water, restoring wetlands and rivers, caring for and protecting our cultural heritage, protecting native plants and animals, including threatened species, and supporting individuals and businesses to minimise their use of resources.

DECCW has a major role in managing national parks and reserves, which cover more than 8% of NSW. This includes World Heritage areas, rainforests, beaches, culturally significant places and alpine areas. Our parks and reserves play an important role in improving the wellbeing and health of the community. With this in mind we encourage people to visit and enjoy the parks in a way that does not harm the natural and cultural environment.

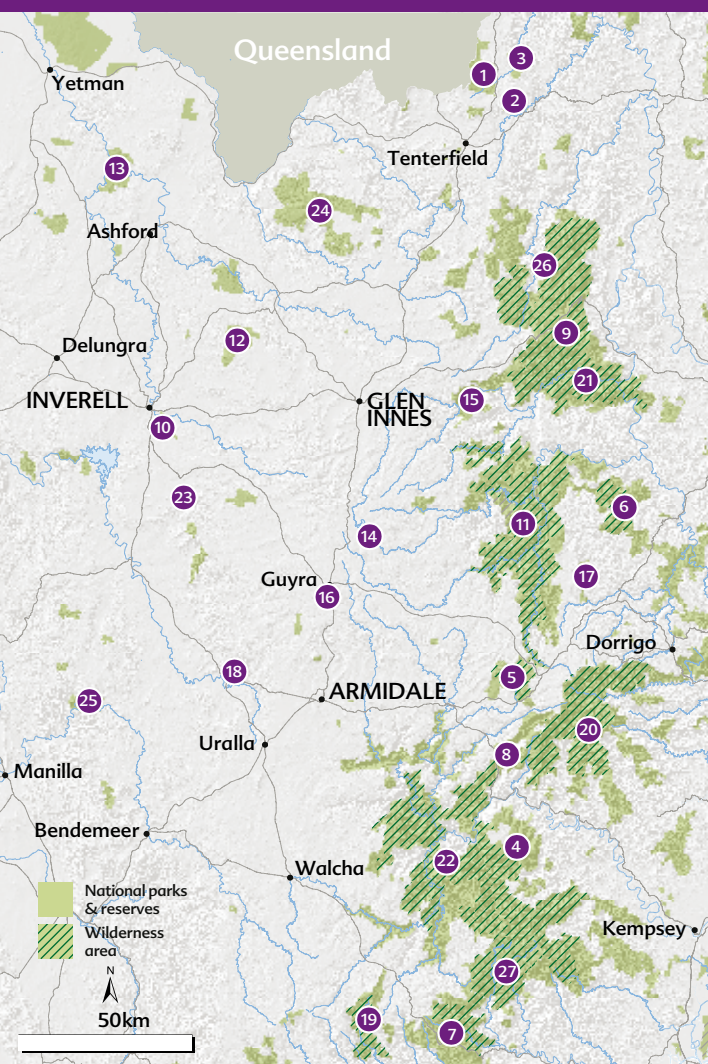
For more information on the environment and the work of the department visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au).





# New England Tablelands

MAP REFERENCE	PAGE		PAGE
① Bald Rock NP	14	⑮ Mann River NR	17
② Basket Swamp NP	14	⑯ Mother of Ducks Lagoon NR	17
③ Boonoo Boonoo NP	14	⑰ Mount Hyland NR	17
④ Carrai NP	14	⑱ Mount Yarrowyck NR	17
⑤ Cathedral Rock NP	14	⑲ Mummel Gulf NP	18
⑥ Chaelundi NP	14	⑳ New England NP	18
⑦ Cottan-bimbang NP	15	㉑ Nymboida NP	18
⑧ Cunnawarra NP	15	㉒ Oxley Wild Rivers NP	19
⑨ Gibraltar Range NP	15	㉓ Stonewoman AA	19
⑩ Goonowigal SCA	16	㉔ Torrington SCA	19
⑪ Guy Fawkes River NP	16	㉕ Warrabah NP	20
⑫ Kings Plains NP	16	㉖ Washpool NP	20
⑬ Kwiambal NP	17	㉗ Werrikimbe NP	20
⑭ Little Llangothlin NR	17		





## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REGION

Explore the high country under wide open skies. Discover its dramatic granite rock outcrops, deep gorges, rugged wilderness, and fascinating Aboriginal and historic places. From the summit of Bald Rock you can see all the way to Queensland. Rainforest walks offer up breathtaking scenery while the mighty Wollomombi waterfall plunges into the deepest gorge in NSW. The region offers many excellent options for camping or cabin stays, and that's good, because you won't want to leave in a hurry.

**More information:** [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/newengland](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/newengland)



Escape to a historic homestead in **Oxley Wild Rivers National Park**.



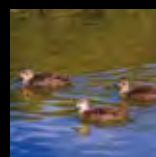
Visit the **Tingha Stonewoman** in **Stonewoman Aboriginal Area**.



Take the spectacular **5-day World Heritage Walk** in **Gibraltar Range National Park**.



See giant granite tors and sculptured boulders at **Cathedral Rock National Park**.



Go on a self-guided bird watching tour in **Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve**.



Take an Aboriginal cultural walk at **Mount Yarrowyck Nature Reserve**.

**FAR LEFT:** Enjoy a peaceful riverside picnic in Mann River Nature Reserve. Photo: P.Mathews/DECCW

**LEFT:** Take in the dramatic wilderness landscape of New England National Park from Point Lookout. Photo: S.Ruming





## 1 Bald Rock

NATIONAL PARK 8883 ha



Camping fee level 3

**Highlights** The water-streaked dome of Bald Rock is the largest granite rock in Australia — 750 metres long, 500 metres wide and 200 metres high.

**Activities** There are canyons and stone arches on the three-hour return walk to the summit, which offers panoramic views — on a clear day you can see well into Queensland. Other walks (4 to 14 km return) take in the surrounding granite country. The track to the foot of Bald Rock is wheelchair-accessible, with assistance. The camping area suits car-based camping and medium-sized caravans, and has toilets and creek water.

**Access** 29 km north of Tenterfield off the sealed Mt Lindesay (Woodenbong) Road onto the sealed entrance road. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Tenterfield, phone 6736 4298**

## 2 Basket Swamp

NATIONAL PARK 2820 ha

**Highlights** Basket Swamp is an important wetland of heaths and sedges. It cleans, stores and slowly releases water throughout the year into local creeks that run into the coastal Clarence River system.

**Activities** This is a woodland park without facilities and that suits self-reliant bushwalkers. It includes Timbarra Lookout and gives access to nearby Basket Swamp Falls and the Woolloomooloolni Aboriginal Place. Boonoo State Forest, which has a picnic and camping area with tables and toilet, is beside the park and 4 km from the falls.

**Access** 14 km north-east of Tenterfield off the Mt Lindesay (Woodenbong) Road (partly unsealed).

**Tenterfield, phone 6736 4298**

BELOW: Watch the Boonoo Boonoo Falls plunge over 200 metres from the lookout platform in Boonoo Boonoo National Park.  
Photo: P.Mathews/DECCW



## 3 Boonoo Boonoo

NATIONAL PARK 4377 ha



Camping fee level 3

**Highlights** From a lookout platform you can watch the river plunge 210 metres at Boonoo Boonoo Falls. In spring, the park's granite woodlands are ablaze with wildflowers.

**Activities** Cypress-pine camping area, by Boonoo Boonoo River, suits car-based camping, including medium-sized caravans. Contact the office to book the park cabin. The falls are an easy 300-m walk from Boonoo Boonoo Falls picnic area, and swimming in the river is popular in summer.

**Access** 24 km north-east of Tenterfield off the Mt Lindesay (Woodenbong) Road on partly unsealed roads. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Tenterfield, phone 6736 4298**

## 4 Carrai

NATIONAL PARK 11,397 HA

**Highlights** Carrai National Park conserves parts of the Carrai Plateau, a huge granite area surrounded by steep escarpments that drop to Kunderang Brook and the Macleay River.

**Activities** The park provides 4WD access to the scenic Marys View Lookout on the eastern side of Oxley Wild Rivers National Park. Experienced bushwalkers can enjoy areas with great views across the Macleay River valley and explore large areas of tall eucalypt forest and rainforest. Basic accommodation is available at Daisy Plains Huts within

the park and Kookaburra just outside the park. No bookings are needed for Daisy Plains Huts, but for Kookaburra bookings contact 6566 6168.

**Access** 90 km west of Kempsey via Kookaburra on the remote, unsealed Carrai Road or from the west on Coachwood Road (4WD essential).

**Walcha, phone 6777 4700**

## 5 Cathedral Rock

NATIONAL PARK 10,897 ha



Camping fee level 2

**Highlights** Giant granite tors and sculptured boulders make striking subjects for photography; keep an eye out for wedge-tailed eagles on the wing.

**Activities** Explore the rock formations on the Cathedral Rock Track, an easy three-hour circuit, or the longer Woolpack Rocks walk (medium grade). Car-based camping is available at Barokee (not suitable for caravans) and Native Dog Creek camping areas.

**Access** 60 km west of Dorrigo off the Waterfall Way (unsealed roads).

**Dorrigo, phone 6657 2309**

## 6 Chaelundi

NATIONAL PARK 19,093 ha



Camping fee level permit required 2

**Highlights** Chaelundi's old-growth forest, the largest stand in northern NSW, supports threatened fauna and makes for excellent bushwalking.





**Activities** Do some birdwatching, go cycling along the network of fire trails, or picnic at the Shannon Creek picnic area (on Shannon Creek Forest Road). Grassy flats along Chandlers Creek are suitable for walking, swimming and backpack camping (no facilities).

Car-based camping is available at Doon Goonge camping area on Chandlers Creek (4WD only, bookings and key required, phone 6657 2309 or 6641 1500 — fees apply).

**Access** 10 km west of Nymboida via Boundary Creek Road (unsealed) off the Armidale—Grafton road.

**Dorrigo, phone 6657 2309**

## 7 Cottan-bimbang

NATIONAL PARK 30,679 ha



**Highlights** This park lies either side of the Oxley Highway, south of Werrikimbe National Park. 'Cottan-bimbang' is the local Aboriginal word for the walking stick palm, which grows in the park's warm-temperate rainforests.

**Activities** Myrtle Scrub Road in the west of the park is an easy, scenic drive through the tall old-growth wet eucalypt forest and rainforest. There's a picnic area next to the Cells River on Myrtle Scrub Road, and another at Stockyard Creek on the Oxley Highway. Maxwells Flat camping area is 12 km south of Stockyard Creek along a narrow gravel road through the forest. Fuel, food and limited accommodation are available at Gingers Creek on the Oxley Highway.

**Access** 65 km east of Walcha along the Oxley Highway. Myrtle Scrub Road is a 15-km circuit that connects with the Oxley Highway.

**Walcha, phone 6777 4700**  
**Port Macquarie, phone 6588 5555**

LEFT: Enjoy a bushwalk through the woodlands of Cottan-Bimbang National Park.  
Photo: P.Matthews/DECCW

BELOW: Drive to Raspberry Lookout for spectacular wilderness views over Gibraltar Range National Park.  
Photo courtesy Tourism NSW



## 8 Cunnawarra

NATIONAL PARK 16,315 ha



**Highlights** From the Cunnawarra Range to the Georges Creek valley, this park links the snow gum high country of New England National Park with the ranges of Oxley Wild Rivers National Park.

**Activities** Beech Lookout (on the Styx Forest Way) overlooks ancient Antarctic beech rainforest in the headwaters of the Georges River. White gums in the surrounding forests are some of the tallest trees in the state. Nearby Wattle Flat and Georges Junction provide campsites, and a good base to enjoy quiet forest drives through remote ranges.

**Access** 70 km south-west of Torrigo, 70 km east of Armidale. The Styx Forest Way, off the Waterfall Way, loops through the park via Point Lookout Road and the Wollomombi—Kempsey road (unsealed roads).

**Torrigo, phone 6657 2309**  
**Armidale, phone 6738 9100**

## 9 Gibraltar Range

NATIONAL PARK 25,407 ha



**Camping fee levels** 1 2 3

**Highlights** Deep valleys and giant granite boulders protect rainforest of World Heritage importance. Scenic creeks and cascades, swamps, heaths and woodlands can be explored on more than 80 km of walking tracks.

**Activities** Short walks lead to famous rock formations such as The Needles and Anvil Rock, or you can take the spectacular five-day World Heritage Walk. Waratahs and Christmas bells bloom October to December, and drive-to lookouts give dramatic wilderness views. Mulligans and Boundary Creek camping areas have visitor facilities and suit car-based camping (and will take medium-sized caravans) or you can backpack camp throughout the park.

**Access** 79 km east of Glen Innes, 104 km west of Grafton off the Gwydir Highway. The 9-km park entry road from the highway to Mulligans is unsealed but suitable for all weather. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Glen Innes, phone 6739 0700**

## DOGS AND OTHER PETS IN NATIONAL PARKS

National parks and reserves are refuges for native animals. Dogs and other domestic pets must not be taken into these areas because:

- ▶ Native animals see dogs as predators. The lasting scent left by dogs can easily scare small animals and birds away from their homes, often causing them to leave their young unprotected.
- ▶ Dog and cat faeces carry diseases that can be harmful to wildlife and people, and also add nutrients to the soil, increasing the spread of weeds.
- ▶ If dogs and other domestic pets have frightened native animals away from popular visitor areas, there will be less wildlife for visitors to see.
- ▶ Dogs can interfere with the enjoyment of other park visitors.

A person with a disability may be accompanied by a trained assistance animal (guide dogs, hearing dogs, etc) in a park, other than in areas closed to the public.

You can walk your dog on a leash in most regional parks, such as Western Sydney Regional Park. These large, open spaces in urban environments give city residents the opportunity for recreation in pleasant, natural surroundings (remember to take a plastic bag to clean up after your dog). For more details, phone 1300 361 967 or see the detailed listing on our website. For information on walking your dog in state forests, phone Forests NSW on 9871 3377.



## 10 Goonoowigal

STATE CONSERVATION Area 1057 ha



**Highlights** Goonoowigal (pronounced 'gunny-wiggle') is scenic granite country with low hills and large granite boulders marking the skyline. The reserve protects special local wildlife and rare plants.

**Activities** Choose from 10 km of easy walking tracks through woodlands with small creeks. A walking track with signs explains local Aboriginal history. Spring wildflowers are a feature. Camping isn't allowed. Bring your own drinking water.

**Access** The sealed main entrance road is off the Tingha Road, just 5.5 km south of Inverell.

**Glen Innes, phone 6739 0700**

## 11 Guy Fawkes River

NATIONAL PARK 93,085 ha



**Camping fee level** 2

**Highlights** Secluded, rugged wilderness and scenic river systems support large plant and animal populations in this park. Lookouts and waterfalls are accessible to picnickers and campers, and experienced walkers can delve into remote bush.

**Activities** The park offers scope for long, hard hikes and backpack camping along the river. There are good views from lookouts on Misty Creek Road and Chaelundi Road, and you can have a picnic beside Ebor Falls, where the Guy Fawkes River plunges off the tablelands. There's car-based camping and access to easy walking tracks at Chaelundi rest area (with accessible campsite and toilets), as well as car-based camping at historic Dalmorton near the Boyd River — ideal for camper trailers and small caravans.

**Access** 60 km north-west of Dorrigo off the Armidale–Grafton road (includes unsealed roads). Take Sheep Station Creek Road (unsealed) at Dundurrabin or Marengo Road (mostly unsealed) from Hernani, on the Armidale–Grafton

road. Access to Dalmorton from the Old Grafton–Glen Innes road (2WD unsealed).

**Dorrigo, phone 6657 2309**

## 12 Kings Plains

NATIONAL PARK 6919 ha



**Camping fee level** 1

**Highlights** Kings Plains Creek features still pools, rapids and waterfalls among dry rocky ridges; wildflowers abound in spring.

**Activities** Rock-hop down the creek, scramble through dry woodlands, or sit and watch the wildlife. There are two picnic and camping areas. One is for car-based campers while the other suits tent campers happy to set up 50 metres away from the car park.

**Access** 50 km north-west of Glen Innes via Wellingrove — follow the signs off the Gwydir Highway west of the town then onto the Kings Plains Road. 47 km north-east of Inverell off Swanbrook Road in town. All roads are unsealed, with creek crossings that may flood briefly in wet weather.

**Glen Innes, phone 6739 0700**

BELOW: Share a picnic with the family or camp by the river in Mann River Nature Reserve.

Photo: P.Mathews/DECCW





## 13 Kwiambal

NATIONAL PARK 1301 ha



Camping fee level 2

**Highlights** The Macintyre River rushes through sculpted granite gorges and plunge pools at Macintyre Falls before meeting the Severn River. The park protects regionally important cypress-pine, box and ironbark woodlands.

**Activities** Camp or fish by the river or go for a bushwalk. Car-based and caravan camping are available by the Severn River at Lemon Tree Flat, where there are toilets, fireplaces and shelters. Call the office to book a park holiday house.

**Access** 90 km north of Inverell. Go to Ashford village, then 18 km west on the Wallangra Road, then turn north for 18 km on Limestone Road (unsealed). In wet weather check road conditions in Ashford or phone the Tenterfield office or local police.

**Tenterfield, phone 6736 4298**

## 14 Little Llangothlin

NATURE RESERVE 258 ha



**Highlights** A small, high-altitude wetland that is an important drought refuge and a stopover for migrating birds. It was declared a 'Wetland of International Importance' in 1996. There's excellent birdwatching on the southern shores of the lagoon.

**Activities** You can walk around the lagoon watching waterbirds, but the track is rough so you'll need good footwear. For the protection of the birds, camping and canoeing are not allowed. Signs explain the importance of this wetland.

**Access** 50 km south of Glen Innes, 60 km north of Armidale. Turn off the New England Highway 44 km south of Glen Innes or 10 km north of the village of Llangothlin, and take the Tubbamurra Road for 2.5 km, then turn left onto Bagot Road (unsealed) for a further 3.5 km.

**Glen Innes, phone 6739 0700**

## 15 Mann River

NATURE RESERVE 7129 ha



Camping fee level 1

**Highlights** This is a pleasant and popular camping area. It extends into a rugged and largely untouched landscape, part of the Mann River Wilderness, which offers plenty of solitude. Rocky outcrops provide outstanding views and the riverside camping area makes a scenic base for walkers.

**Activities** Swim, paddle an air mattress, or stretch out and relax on a smooth boulder. Suits car-based and caravan camping beside the river, where there are toilets, fireplaces and tables. Suitably equipped bushwalkers with topographic maps can explore the wilder parts of the river upstream.

**Access** 48 km east of Glen Innes, 129 km west of Grafton. Turn off the Gwydir Highway 35 km east of Glen Innes onto the old Glen Innes—Grafton road (partly unsealed). Includes a winding steep descent that is fully sealed and will suit medium-sized caravans. Take the unsealed road between the park and Grafton for a scenic alternative. This road is suitable for small caravans with care and passes through a historic tunnel with 3.2-metre clearance.

**Glen Innes, phone 6739 0700**

## 16 Mother of Ducks Lagoon

NATURE RESERVE 97 ha



**Highlights** One of the few remaining high-country wetlands and a summer stopover for the migratory Japanese snipe and home to many other waterbirds.

**Activities** Watch the birdlife from the viewing platform at the edge of the water. There are no marked walking tracks but it's possible to walk a short distance around the edge of the lagoon. The viewing platform is accessible by wheelchair from the adjacent carpark near the golf course. There are no camping facilities but there's a camping and caravan park in nearby Guyra.

**Access** 37 km north of Armidale just off the New England Highway in south Guyra; 2WD sealed access.

**Armidale, phone 6738 9100**

## 17 Mount Hyland

NATURE RESERVE 2519 ha



**Highlights** Cool-temperate rainforest clothes the three separate peaks that make up Mt Hyland, which at 1400 metres is one of the highest points on the New England Plateau.

A short walk, picnic facilities and two lookouts are provided in the reserve.

**Activities** The 3-km loop walk guides you through the sassafras and mountain walnut-dominated rainforest, where a series of signs introduce interesting features of the park. Lookouts along the trail and at Vista Point provide magnificent views across Dorrigo Plateau.

**Access** 50 km north-west of Dorrigo. Take either the unsealed Sheep Station Creek Road from Dundurrabin or Marengo and Hardens roads (unsealed) from Hernani. Both routes branch off from the Armidale—Grafton road.

**Dorrigo, phone 6657 2309**

## 18 Mount Yarrowyck

NATURE RESERVE 170 ha



**Highlights** Take an Aboriginal cultural walk and visit an Aboriginal rock painting site.

**Activities** A 3-km return track with signs introducing aspects of Aboriginal culture takes you along the granite slopes of the mountain to the rock painting site.

**Access** 30 km west of Armidale along the mostly sealed Bundarra Road.

**Armidale, phone 6738 9100**





## 19 Mummel Gulf

NATIONAL PARK 12,220 ha



Camping fee level 1

**Highlights** The ancient old-growth forests of this park cling to the edge of the Mummel Gulf, part of the Great Escarpment, which drops from 1450 metres down to 470 metres. The site of protests against continued logging in the early 1990s, the park protects the threatened spotted-tailed quoll, koala, yellow-bellied glider and sooty, powerful and masked owls.

**Activities** There's a picnic area and car-based camping at New Country Swamp. A short walk from the campground offers breathtaking views from the edge of Mummel Gulf. Mummel Forest Drive is an easy introduction to the forests of Mummel Gulf National Park and nearby state forests.

**Access** 12 km south of the Oxley Highway, 50 km south-east of Walcha on the unsealed Enfield Road. The last 15 km of unsealed road is not recommended for caravans, and not recommended for 2WD vehicles in wet weather.

**Walcha, phone 6777 4700**

## 20 New England

NATIONAL PARK 72,241 ha



Camping fee level 2

**Highlights** A dramatic landscape of basalt cliffs and World Heritage rainforests with occasional snowfalls and lingering mist on the edge of the Great Escarpment.

**Activities** Point Lookout, Banksia Point and Wrights Lookout offer wilderness views.

You can enjoy easy walks around the lookouts, or take one of the longer, more challenging tracks. There's wheelchair access to the Point Lookout viewing platform on a 100-metre sealed track from the carpark (accessible parking and toilets). Stay at The Residence, The Chalet or Tom's Cabin (for bookings phone 6657 2309). Car-based camping is available at Thungutti and an area for campervans and camper trailers is available just outside the entrance to the park (call for details).

**Access** 85 km east of Armidale on the Waterfall Way (unsealed roads).

**Dorrigo, phone 6657 2309**

## 21 Nymboida

NATIONAL PARK 38,119 ha



Camping fee level 1

**Highlights** An area famous for the challenging white water on the Nymboida and Mann rivers.

**Activities** There are no marked tracks, but the park has a lot to offer for experienced and well-equipped walkers. Take on the white water, or go canoeing, swimming or fishing in one of the quieter spots. There's 4WD-based camping at Nymboida River camping area (basic facilities).

**Access** 50 km west of Grafton. Also accessible by canoe from Buccarumbi (40 km south-west of Grafton on the old Glen Innes—Grafton road, unsealed) or on foot from Jackadgery (45 km west of Grafton on the Gwydir Highway).

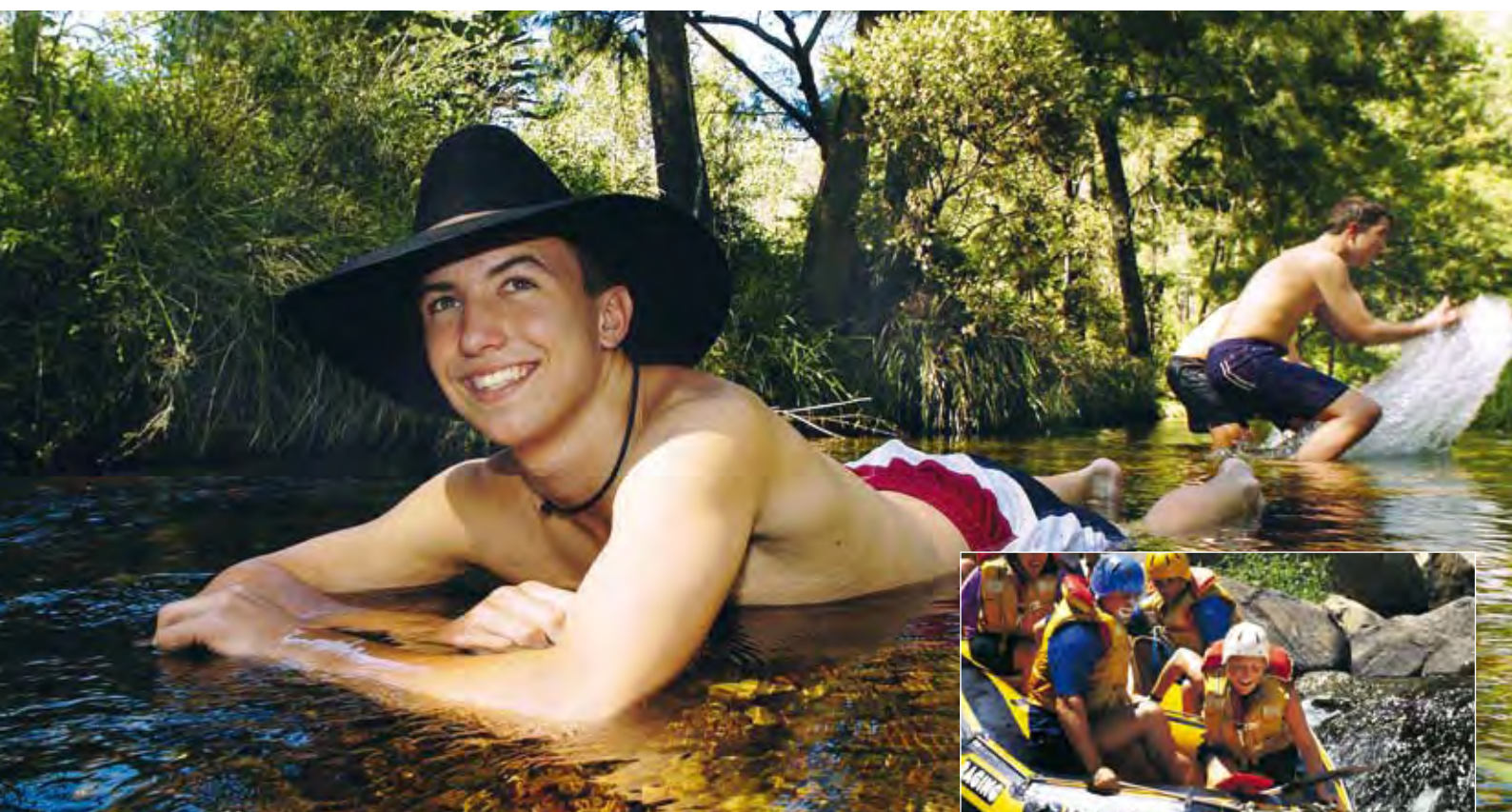
**Grafton, phone 6641 1500**  
**Glen Innes, phone 6739 0700**

BELOW: Take a refreshing dip in Kunderang Brook in the dramatic Oxley Wild Rivers National Park.

Photo: P.Mathews/DECCW

INSET: Set your pulse racing on a white water rafting trip in Nymboida National Park.

Photo: R.Newman, courtesy Tourism NSW



## 22 Oxley Wild Rivers

NATIONAL PARK 145,000 ha



Camping fee levels 1 2 3

**Highlights** A World Heritage park with dramatic gorges and waterfalls, extensive wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, dry rainforest and many rare plants and animals. Wollomombi is the highest waterfall in NSW, and the Bicentennial National Trail passes through the park.

**Activities** The park is large, with ten separate visitor areas. Gara Gorge is for day visitors only. Wollomombi Gorge, Long Point, Dangars Gorge, Budds Mare, Apsley Falls and Tia Falls are suitable for 2WD car-based camping. Riverside and Youdales Hut suit camping and day visits but can only be reached in a 4WD vehicle, with no trailers allowed (bookings required, phone 6777 2755 or 6777 4700). East Kunderang Homestead has accommodation but no camping (bookings required, phone 6738 9100). Walks of varying grades and distances are available from each visitor area. There are excellent facilities for people with a disability, including paths to spectacular lookouts at Apsley, Dangars and Wollomombi falls.

**Access** The park begins about 20 km east of Armidale and Walcha, so there are two main access roads: the Waterfall Way and Oxley Highway. Other access roads are good but unsealed, with 4WD required in a few places. Check a detailed map for other access points and seek further information before visiting.

**Armidale, phone 6738 9100**  
**Walcha, phone 6777 4700**

## 23 Stonewoman

ABORIGINAL AREA 2 ha



**Highlights** The Tingha Stonewoman is a rock feature used by local Aboriginal people as a teaching and ceremonial site. A sign prepared in collaboration with local Aboriginal groups tells the story of a young woman punished for breaking traditional marriage laws.

**Activities** You'll need to carry drinking water and allow one hour in total for the 1-km walk from the carpark. Camping is not permitted.

**Access** The carpark is 6 km south of Tingha village. Follow the unsealed Kempton Road then Long Gully Road. Tingha is 22 km south-east of Inverell and 55 km north-west of Guyra on sealed roads.

**Armidale, phone 6738 9100**

## 24 Torrington

STATE CONSERVATION AREA 30,052 ha



Camping fee level 2

**Highlights** A geologically rich part of the tablelands with beautiful scenery, several historic sites, and an amazing variety of woodland plants and animals. Fossickers seek topaz, emerald, sapphire and quartz crystal here.

**Activities** There are visitor facilities at Nomads picnic area, where a walk to Thunderbolts Lookout offers fine 360° views. A popular walk takes you to a curious rock formation called the Mystery Face. Ugly Corner Walk highlights the area's creekside scenery. Blatherarm camping area suits car-based campers but not caravans. Local roads are unsealed but open in all weather.

**Access** 65 km north of Glen Innes. Leave Deepwater on the New England Highway 45 km north of Glen Innes or 55 km south of Tenterfield, travel to Stannum then follow 10 km of unsealed road to Torrington.

**Tenterfield, phone 6736 4298**

### ACCOMMODATION

## East Kunderang Homestead

This historic homestead, set amid wild and spectacular gorges, gives a unique glimpse into the late nineteenth century colonial life. East Kunderang is a perfect place to experience Australian heritage in this peaceful, hidden valley.

The homestead was built in 1890, and careful restoration has brought it up to modern accommodation standards. It offers a wonderful opportunity to explore the wilderness of Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, staying beside the

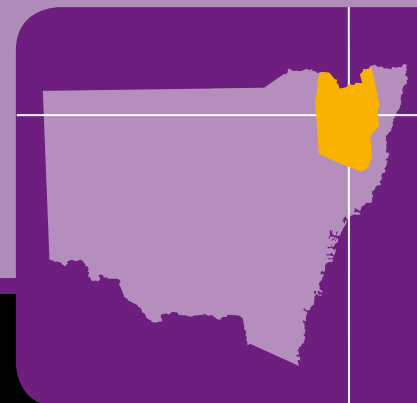
wild and free Macleay River. Spend the days exploring and nights in perfect tranquillity under the stars, with a blazing fire in winter.

Set in one of the state's largest and most spectacular parks, it's a getaway for lovers of the great outdoors. The park offers both easy and challenging walks, gorges and tumbling waterfalls, spectacular lookouts and the largest area of dry rainforest in the state.

While you're in the park, visit the historic Youdales Hut, a slab-sided cabin that was once the home of the Youdale grazier family. You can camp next to the hut, at the meeting point of two wilderness areas on the upper reaches of Kunderang brook.

**For more information and bookings**  
**Phone: 02 6738 9100**

East Kunderang Homestead.  
Photos: M. Van Ewijk/DECCW





## 25 Warrabah

NATIONAL PARK 3471 ha



Camping fee levels 1 2

**Highlights** One of the state's few inland river parks, Warrabah provides an important native refuge in a largely cleared area. Ridges and isolated granite boulders line a scenic section of the Namoi River before it meets the Western Plains.

**Activities** Pools and rapids are excellent for swimming, fishing and canoeing, and there are good opportunities for bushwalking. There's plenty of room for campers and day visitors.

**Access** 80 km north of Tamworth, 35 km north-east of Manilla on the unsealed Namoi River Road.

**Armidale, phone 6738 9100**

BELOW: Discover the forest and creek-side scenery of Washpool National Park on the 1.4-km Coombadjha Walk.

Photo: P.Mathews/DECCW

BELOW INSET: Kangaroos in Werrikimbe National Park.

Photo: P.Mathews/DECCW

## 26 Washpool

NATIONAL PARK 65,779 ha



Camping fee levels 1 2

**Highlights** The landscape of steep gorges, clear waters and World Heritage rainforest protects some of the most varied and least disturbed forest in NSW, including the world's largest stand of coachwood trees. There are excellent wilderness walking opportunities.

**Activities** The Coombadjha Walk, an easy 1.4-km circuit with educational signs and creek-side scenery, makes a good introduction to the park. The 8.5-km Washpool Walk takes in the park's main forest types. Camp at Coombadjha (a short walk from carpark) or Bellbird camping areas, where there are toilets, shelters and fireplaces. Bellbird suits car-based camping and small caravans.

**Access** 78 km east of Glen Innes and 93 km west of Grafton off the Gwydir Highway. Includes a 3-km park entry road (unsealed; take care when wet). Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Glen Innes, phone 6739 0700**  
**Tenterfield, phone 6736 4298**

## 27 Werrikimbe

NATIONAL PARK 33,309 ha



Camping fee level 1

**Highlights** A World Heritage park of wild magnificence, with rainforests, heaths, rushing rivers and spring wildflowers.

**Activities** There are four main visitor areas, at Cobcroft, Mooraback, Plateau Beech and Brushy Mountain. Car-based camping is available at Mooraback, Brushy Mountain and Plateau Beech (2WD) camping areas. Short walks start from all five visitor areas, with longer walks at various locations.

**Access** 90 km east of Walcha or 70 km north-west of Wauchope off the Oxley Highway, including 40 km of narrow unsealed roads (not recommended for conventional caravans).

**East: Port Macquarie,**  
**phone 6588 5555**  
**West: Walcha, phone 6777 4700**





## DIFFERENT TYPES OF PARKS

The name '**national park**' is one most people are all familiar with, but the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW (DECCW) under the National Parks and Wildlife Service banner manages more than 780 parks and reserves, each with a specific purpose. These parks and reserves cover around 6.6 million hectares, more than eight per cent of the state. A further 345,000 hectares of coast and ocean make up the six marine parks of NSW.

**National parks** are relatively large areas that protect important ecosystems, natural or cultural features or outstanding landscapes. They provide opportunities for public appreciation and inspiration, sustainable visitor use, education and enjoyment.

**Aboriginal areas** are places that have special significance to Aboriginal people, or contain objects of Aboriginal culture. They are managed in accordance with the cultural values of the local Aboriginal people.

**Historic sites** are areas associated with a person, event or historical theme, or they include a building, place, feature or landscape of cultural significance. They provide opportunities for visitor enjoyment and the sustainable use of buildings or modified natural areas.

**Nature reserves** are natural areas of special scientific interest mainly established to conserve their native plant and animal communities. Unlike other park categories, nature reserves do not normally provide visitor facilities.

**State conservation areas** contain important natural environments and cultural values. They have been reserved primarily for nature conservation while also providing opportunities for sustainable visitation.

**Regional parks**, found mostly near metropolitan areas, are well suited for recreation activities. They offer open space and varied visitor activities that are compatible with sustainable use and management of the natural and cultural values present. Some allow walking of dogs on a leash.

**Karst conservation reserves** protect magnificent caves that are examples of a type of landform called 'karst'. These landforms occur where rock is easily dissolved in fresh natural waters and are typically found in limestone areas.

**Marine parks** are managed by DECCW, through the Marine Parks Authority. They are set aside to conserve marine biological diversity and to maintain ecological processes. Marine parks may also provide for ecologically sustainable fishing, as well as public appreciation, understanding and enjoyment. There are currently six marine parks in NSW, offering a variety of outstanding marine areas for visitors to enjoy.

**Aquatic reserves** are permanent reserves established to protect biodiversity and representative of samples of our marine life and habitats. They can also be established to protect important habitat, nursery areas and protected

species, or for research and education. Aquatic reserves are generally small in comparison to marine parks and play a significant role in the NSW marine protected area system.

Some parks are given a further layer of protection in addition to their park category.

**Wilderness areas** are large natural areas that support plant and animal communities which are in a relatively natural state. They are generally declared over areas of national parks or nature reserves.

Wilderness areas do not have facilities but instead provide opportunities for self-reliant recreation. They are open to the public for restricted activities such as remote area bushwalking, swimming, camping, photography, fishing, bird watching, picnicking, enjoying the scenery and rock climbing.

**Aboriginal co-managed parks** are parks that have been handed back to Traditional Owners which are then leased back to the government. They provide a rare experience in nature conservation and benefit from Aboriginal communities having a unique relationship with the land.

**Community conservation areas** are national parks, Aboriginal areas or state conservation areas that are managed under the auspices of community conservation committees. They are located generally north of Dubbo in the central west of the state.



LEFT: Different kinds of parks suit different sorts of uses — for example, you can walk your dog in most regional parks.  
Photo: T.Karacsonyi/DECCW



# Hunter & Mid North Coast

MAP REFERENCE	PAGE		
① Arakoon SCA	24	①⑦ Dunggir NP	28
② Barrington Tops NP/SCA	24	①⑧ Glenrock SCA	29
③ Bindarri NP	24	①⑨ Hat Head NP	29
④ Blue Gum Hills RP	25	②⑦ Hunter Wetlands NP	29
⑤ Bongil Bongil NP	25	②① Kattang NR	30
⑥ Boorganna NR	26	②② Limeburners Creek NR	30
⑦ Booti Booti NP	26	②③ Lord Howe Island MP	30
⑧ Brimbin NR	26	②④ Macquarie NR	30
⑨ Burning Mountain NR	26	②⑤ Middle Brother NP	30
⑩ Cascade NP	26	②⑥ Moonee Beach NR	31
⑪ Coffs Coast RP	26	②⑦ Mount Royal NP	31
⑫ Coorabakh NP	27	②⑧ Muttonbird Island NR	31
⑬ Copeland Tops SCA	27	②⑨ Myall Lakes NP	31
⑭ Crowdy Bay NP	28	③① Ngambaa NR	32
⑮ Dooragan N	28	③② Nymboi—Binderay NP	32
⑯ Dorrigo NP	28	③③ Port Stephens—Great Lakes MP	32
		③④ Saltwater NP	33
		③⑤ Sea Acres NR	33
		③⑥ Sherwood NR	33
		③⑦ Tapin Tops NP	33
		③⑧ Tomaree NP	34
		③⑨ Towarri NP	34
		③⑩ Ulidarra NP	34
		④① Wallingat NP	34
		④② Watagans NP	34
		④③ Werakata NP	34
		④④ Willi Willi NP	35
		④⑤ Wingham Brush NR	35
		④⑥ Woko NP	35
		④⑦ Worimi Conservation Lands	35
		④⑧ Yarriabini NP	35





## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REGION

Perhaps it's the diversity of the habitat, the wilderness — subtropical, moist eucalypt and warm-temperate environments — that make this region so fascinating. Or is it the abundant bird and animal life? Dorrigo National Park is one of the treasures of the mid north coast, with its waterfalls and boardwalk through the rainforest canopy. Beneath Burning Mountain lies a slowly smouldering coal seam. The Nymboida River roars with white water, beckoning the adventurous. Along the coastline, perfect sandy beaches, towering dunes, rocky headlands with magnificent ocean views, coastal lakes and estuaries are just waiting to be explored.

**More information:** [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/midnorth](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/midnorth)



Wake to the sounds of surf at Plomer Beach House in Limeburners Creek Nature Reserve.



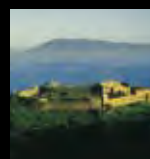
Walk above the forest canopy at Dorrigo Rainforest Centre.



Raft the Nymboida rapids in Nymboi-Binderay National Park.



Wander the delightful forest paths of Boorganna Nature Reserve.



Soak up the history at Trial Bay Gaol in Arakoon State Conservation Area.



Cycle the gravel fire trails of Bongil Bongil National Park.

**FAR LEFT:** See how many fish species you can spot on a snorkel off the beach in Lord Howe Island Marine Park. Photo: G. McConnell, courtesy Tourism NSW

**LEFT:** Uncover the contrasts of Barrington Tops National Park on a walk, or simply soak up the view at one of the park's lookouts. Photo: H. Lund, courtesy Tourism NSW.





## 1 Arakoon

STATE CONSERVATION AREA 114 ha



**Camping fee level — special fees**

**Highlights** The heritage-listed Trial Bay Gaol (1886) is surrounded by rocky foreshores and pleasant sandy beaches.

**Activities** Wander through the museum, explore the ruins or relax on the beach. You can take a stroll over Monument Hill to the Little Bay picnic area, or enjoy the spectacular half-day walk from the picnic area to historic Smoky Cape Lighthouse in Hat Head National Park. Around the gaol there are picnic areas and facilities for car-based and caravan camping, and you can stay at secluded Little Bay Cottage (for bookings phone 6566 6168). There's an entry fee to the gaol and museum with guided tours available in holiday periods. Please contact the gaol office regarding fees.

**Access** 3 km east of South West Rocks near the village of Arakoon.

**Trial Bay Gaol, phone 6566 6168**

## 2 Barrington Tops

NATIONAL PARK/STATE CONSERVATION AREA 83,403 ha



**Camping fee levels** 1 2 3

**Highlights** An area of contrasts, with World Heritage subtropical rainforests in the lower valleys and subalpine woodland on the upland plateau. Most of the area is declared wilderness, with wild and scenic rivers and winter snowcaps.

**Activities** Short interesting walks at Gloucester Tops feature Antarctic beech forests, snow gum woodlands and scenic waterfalls. At Williams River and Jerusalem Creek there are easy walks through rainforest and tall blue gums. Wheelchair access is provided at Devils Hole lookout and the Williams River picnic area. On the plateau, short and inspiring walks pass through snow gum woodland, tall eucalypt forest, Antarctic beech rainforest and areas of high-altitude swamp. Car-based camping is available at Gloucester River, Polblue, Horse Swamp, Junction Pools, Gummi Falls, Little Murray and Devils Hole.

**Access** 38 km west of Gloucester, 40 km north-west of Dungog and 65 km east of Scone. Access is generally along unsealed roads. Entry to Polblue camping area and barbecue facilities is off the Barrington Tops Forest Road.

**Gloucester, phone 6538 5300**

**Scone, phone 6540 2300**

**Nelson Bay, phone 4984 8200**

## 3 Bindarri

NATIONAL PARK 5513 ha



**Highlights** The headwaters of the Urumbilum River offer spectacular waterfalls in a remote and rugged setting. Pockets of old-growth forest are scattered across the plateau and rainforest protects the steeper slopes.

**Activities** Enjoy a picnic or take a swim in the crystal-clear Urumbilum River at Bindarray Picnic Area. A short walk from the Bangalore picnic area, through the rainforest, will bring you to the beautiful Bangalore Falls. Keen walkers are encouraged to walk to Tuckers Knob or explore the more remote waterfalls on the Urumbilum River.

**Access** 20 km west of Coffs Harbour, via Corfes Road from near Ulong, or Pine Road from Dairyville (both unsealed, dry-weather roads); 4WD access only on Pine, Langleys and Urumbilum roads.

**Coffs Harbour, phone 6652 0900**

BELOW: Cool your feet at the Bindarray Picnic Area in Bindarri National Park.  
Photo B.Webster/DECCW



## 4 Blue Gum Hills

REGIONAL PARK 130 ha



**Highlights** This regional park is near Minmi, west of Newcastle. Facilities have been constructed on land previously used for open-cut coal mining. The park's significant heritage from the early years of mining at Minmi will be preserved, protected and interpreted.

**Activities** Enjoy a picnic or barbecue in a bushland setting with a children's playground and maze and large open spaces. A number of easy-grade walking tracks near historic Minmi Cemetery and Minmi Heritage Garden provide pleasant strolls. Disabled access and toilet facilities are available. Being a regional park, dogs are allowed if on a leash.

**Access** 14 km from Newcastle City with access from Minmi Road, Minmi.

**Nelson Bay, phone 4984 8200**

## 5 Bongil Bongil

NATIONAL PARK 4136 ha



**Highlights** Eleven kilometres of unspoiled beaches, coastal rainforest and fascinating estuaries make Bongil Bongil ideal for family activities. Cyclists will enjoy the flat terrain and many kilometres of gravelled fire trails through beautiful coastal forest. Recent additions to the park protect one of the largest koala populations on the north coast.

**Activities** The Bongil picnic area is set among tall trees on the banks of peaceful Bonville Creek. Explore Bonville and Pine creeks by canoe from the launching pontoon or enjoy an easy walk from Tuckers Rocks. Camping isn't permitted in the park but there's accommodation in the area, including privately owned caravan parks at Mylestom and Sawtell. No vehicles are permitted on the beach north of Bundagen Head.

**Access** 10 km south of Coffs Harbour via Williams Road (closed sunset to sunrise) or Tuckers Rocks Road (unsealed) from Repton, Overhead Bridge Road (unsealed) or Lyons Road off the Pacific Highway.

**Coffs Harbour, phone 6652 0900**

LEFT: Explore the ambient ruins of Trial Bay Gaol on the breathtaking shores of Arakoon State Conservation Area.

Photo: G.McConnell, courtesy Tourism NSW

## RESPONSIBLE

### ROAD AND MOUNTAIN CYCLING

From easy, flat cruises to more challenging mountain trails, you'll find a wealth of cycling experiences in national parks. Cycling is generally prohibited on all walking tracks unless a sign indicates otherwise. However, many parks offer extensive networks of suitable roads, tracks and fire trails. When cycling in parks or reserves, keep the following points in mind:

- ▶ Be bike smart. Wear a helmet, and always be in control of your bike so you don't endanger yourself or others. Keep your bike clean — it'll last longer and will be less likely to carry weeds and plant diseases into native bushland. If you come across other cyclists who are not respecting the park or are disturbing others, politely explain that cycling can only continue to be acceptable in bushland areas if riders follow this code.
- ▶ Ride carefully. Don't skid, as it can remove the surface layer of a track and cause erosion. Avoid riding in the wet — your tyres will carve tracks in the mud that will channel water, also causing erosion. If there are puddles on the trail, please ride through; if you go around them it only widens the trail. Don't take short cuts or form new trails as this destroys native vegetation.
- ▶ Respect the environment. Leave everything as you find it. Don't disturb historic places, Aboriginal sites, plants, animals or bush rock. Take all your rubbish home.
- ▶ Look out for others. Walkers and joggers have just as much right to be on park trails as you. Try to cycle in small groups to prevent too much disturbance to others. When approaching walkers, give plenty of warning by calling out or ringing your bell. Slow right down and only pass when it's safe.
- ▶ Watch for horse riders. When you meet horse riders, slow down and tell them you're approaching (don't use a bell or horn), then move over and allow them to pass. A horse can be frightened by a bicycle, endangering both its rider and you.

For information on walking your dog in state forests, phone Forests NSW on 9871 3377



Photo: D.Smith/DECCW





## 6 Boorganna

NATURE RESERVE 390 ha



**Highlights** Enjoy delightful forest walks in one of the oldest nature reserves in the state (established in 1904). The reserve protects five types of forest, including rainforest, and is a sanctuary for a variety of flora and fauna.

**Activities** A walking track leads down through the forest to views of Rawson Falls. The track continues to the base of the falls.

**Access** 50 km north of Taree along the Wingham—Comboyne road and Innes View Road; 44 km from Wauchope via Comboyne off the Oxley Highway; 42 km from Kew off the Pacific Highway.

**Port Macquarie, phone 6588 5555**

## 7 Booti Booti

NATIONAL PARK 1567 ha



**Camping fee level** 4

**Highlights** Wallis Lake and beautiful beaches of all shapes and sizes offer excellent opportunities for water activities — Elizabeth Beach is patrolled in summer. The lookout tower on Cape Hawke offers 360° views over the forests of Booti Booti and Wallingat national parks, the foothills of the Barrington Tops, Seal Rocks and Crowdy Bay.

**Activities** Wallis Lake, on the western boundary, is popular for boating and windsurfing. Cape Hawke has one of the state's most significant stands of coastal rainforest. There's car-based and caravan camping at The Ruins — facilities include hot showers and gas barbecues. Wood fires are not permitted anywhere in the park or on the beaches.

**Access** 10 km south of Forster on The Lakes Way. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Pacific Palms, phone 6591 0300**  
**Nelson Bay, phone 4984 8200**

## 8 Brimbil

NATURE RESERVE 40 ha



**Highlights** This small nature reserve has a fascinating history of European settlement and folklore. It protects a variety of vegetation, including the narrow-leaved red gum, an important food and habitat tree for koalas. The name comes from a local Aboriginal word derived from 'Borembit' or stringybark, which is common in the area.

**Activities** There are two walking tracks, Isabella Mary Walk and the Dawson River Walk.

**Access** 12 km north of Taree (turn off the Wingham Road at Cedar Party Road and follow signs).

**Taree, phone 6552 4097**

## 9 Burning Mountain

NATURE RESERVE 15 ha



**Highlights** Early explorers assumed Burning Mountain's billowing smoke and peak of grey, smouldering ash was a volcano, but it's actually a natural slow-burning coal seam, one of very few in the world.

**Activities** Signs along the walk from the rest area explain the effects of the underground fire on the landscape, the regeneration process and the significance of the area to Aboriginal people. There are good views of the Hunter Valley and Wingen Maid Nature Reserve, and great photo opportunities. Nearby visitor facilities, including parking, barbecues, toilets and a rest area, are administered by Upper Hunter Shire Council.

**Access** 24 km north of Scone. Entry is off the New England Highway north of Wingen.

**Scone, phone 6540 2300**  
**Nelson Bay, phone 4984 8200**

BELOW: Absorb the beautiful coastal scenery along the Solitary Islands Coastal Walk in Coffs Coast Regional Park.  
Photo: Z.Webster

## 10 Cascade

NATIONAL PARK 3620 ha



**Highlights** Beautiful subtropical and warm temperate rainforest, including booyong, crabapple and coachwood trees, surround the village of Cascade. The forest is an important habitat for many upland rainforest amphibians, such as the giant barred frog, stuttering frog and pouched frog.

**Activities** The Box Ridge walking track (1 km, medium grade) takes you through a delightful corner of the park.

**Access** 18 km north of Dorrigo on the Cascade Road (unsealed).

**Dorrigo, phone 6657 2309**

## 11 Coffs Coast

REGIONAL PARK 360 ha



**Highlights** This park's 26 km of coastal dune systems, rainforests, heathlands, headlands, coastal lakes and parklands link coastal towns, villages and resorts with the Solitary Islands Marine Park, north of Coffs Harbour.

**Activities** The developing Solitary Islands Coastal Walk explores a string of beaches, estuaries and headlands and takes in scenery that includes the Solitary Islands and the Coffs hinterland. There are plenty of picnic areas and opportunities for water sports and you'll find a wide range of accommodation in the surrounding towns.

**Access** North of Coffs Harbour via coastal villages including Arrawarra, Woolgoolga, Emerald Beach, Sapphire, Korora and Diggers Beach.

**Coffs Harbour, phone 6652 0900**

BELOW: Launch your sea kayak at Boomerang Beach in Booti Booti National Park.  
Photo: DECCW



## 12 Coorabakh

NATIONAL PARK 1840 ha



**Highlights** Three prominent volcanic peaks known as Big Nellie, Flat Nellie and Little Nellie dominate the park. Tall open eucalypt forest gives way to low stunted shrubland on the exposed summits and the Lansdowne Escarpment, while rainforest is found in protected gullies. The park is home to threatened species such as the spotted-tailed quoll, powerful owl and stuttering frog.

**Activities** Newbys Cave is a short stroll along Newbys Creek from the road. Newbys Lookout offers picnic facilities and sweeping views of the Manning Valley. Flat Rock Lookout overlooks the upper Lansdowne Valley and Comboyne Plateau escarpment. Starrs Creek picnic area includes a rainforest boardwalk and there's another picnic area at Big Nellie.

**Access** 25 km north of Taree. Follow the signs on Pacific Highway at Moorland, 20 km north of Taree.

**Taree, phone 6552 4097**

## 13 Copeland Tops

STATE CONSERVATION AREA 2400 ha



**Highlights** This is the largest easily accessible area of dry rainforest in the Gloucester district and contains a diverse variety of plants and animals including a large number of threatened species. The reserve was once part of a thriving goldfield and there are numerous mine shafts and relics of past mining activities.

**Activities** Try the Hidden Treasure walking trail through rainforest with abundant birdlife. Relics of the gold mining era of the Copeland area can also be seen along the trail. Other trails that use the old wagon and logging tracks also provide bushwalking opportunities. Sections are subject to rehabilitation works and may be closed from time to time.

**Access** 18 km west of Gloucester on the Scone Road.

**Barrington Tops, phone 6538 5300**

## BUSHFIRE

IN NEW SOUTH WALES

The Australian landscape has a long history of fire, and the challenge is not only to protect lives and property but to maintain the diversity of native plants and animals. If you're planning a visit to a park or a reserve during the fire season (usually October to March):

- ▶ Be fire smart. Always extinguish your fire and turn off fuel lanterns and stoves before you leave or go to bed — even a few glowing embers could start a huge bushfire. Heavy fines may apply if campfires or other unshielded flames are left unattended. Never light or rekindle a fire with flammable liquids. Use electric torches in and around tents.
- ▶ Use gas or electric barbecues where provided, or a portable gas stove (call the local park office to check if portable stoves are allowed). Where firewood is provided, use a designated fireplace and extinguish your fire by pouring water over the flames and smothering the coals with soil.
- ▶ Be aware of fire bans. During a total fire ban no fires at all (including gas or electric stoves) may be lit in national parks and reserves; you should consider postponing your trip. When a park fire ban is imposed at a particular park you may be able to use a gas or electric stove (check with the local park office), otherwise the rules are the same as for a total fire ban.
- ▶ Follow instructions — particularly park closure and safety signs and any requests from a ranger. On high fire-risk days, DECCW may close some or all of a park to ensure public safety and reduce the likelihood of fire. Call 1300 361 967 or check our website for details before you go.
- ▶ Seek shelter. If you're caught in the bush during a fire, find a stream, river, clearing or large rock outcrop and prepare to shelter there — don't try to out-run a bushfire.
- ▶ Report fires. Call 000 to report signs of fire or suspicious behaviour.

Park areas are often closed when there is fire danger. Check the 'Fires, floods and park closures' section of our website, phone 1300 361 967 during business hours, call your local park office or go to the Rural Fire Service website at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au). For more information on how we manage fires, see our website.

Check the park entries in this guide or our website for contact details, or phone 1300 361 967.





## Dorrigo Rainforest Centre

DORRIGO NATIONAL PARK, DORRIGO



Phone 6657 2309

The Dorrigo Rainforest Centre and Skywalk are only an hour's drive west of Coffs Harbour. An interactive display guides visitors of all ages through different aspects of this World Heritage-listed rainforest, and staff can provide detailed information on national parks throughout north-east NSW. The Rainforest Shop (open 7 days, 9 am to 4.30 pm) sells specialised books and guides, posters, prints, cards, local crafts, T-shirts and souvenirs with a rainforest theme. The Canopy Cafe (open 7 days a week, 9 am to 4 pm) offers lunches, cakes and coffee. All facilities are accessible, and there is a wheelchair, child carrypack and stroller available. The centre is closed Christmas Day.

## 14 Crowdy Bay

NATIONAL PARK 10,001 ha



Camping fee levels 2 3

**Highlights** Beautiful beaches north and south of Diamond Head. Australian author Kylie Tennant spent time living and writing here, and her hut has been restored.

**Activities** At low tide you can explore the coastline. There's good fishing, birdwatching and fascinating headland walks with abundant wildlife. Car-based and caravan camping is available at Diamond Head, Indian Head, Kyllies Beach and Crowdy Gap. Bring your own drinking water; firewood is sold on site.

**Access** Diamond Head is 35 km north-east of Taree off the Pacific Highway at Moorland; 5 km south of Laurieton via the coast road from Port Macquarie or 13 km east of Kew via Laurieton and the coast road. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

Port Macquarie, phone 6588 5555

BELOW: Breathe the fresh coastal air on a morning jog along the beach in Hat Head National Park. Photo: D.Fuchs, courtesy Tourism NSW

## 15 Dooragan

NATIONAL PARK 1042 ha



**Highlights** Local Aboriginal legend tells of the death of three brothers. North Brother Mountain, at the heart of the park, is the resting place of Dooragan, the eldest. The mountain supports a variety of coastal forests and rainforests, home for gliders, bats and koalas.

**Activities** Enjoy grand coastal views from the mountain summit, which is accessible by sealed road. There are three wheelchair-accessible lookouts, a picnic area and a short walking track through the rainforest.

**Access** 6 km east of Kew along Ocean Drive. Turn onto Captain Cook Bicentennial Road 2 km west of Laurieton.

Port Macquarie, phone 6588 5555

## 16 Dorrigo

NATIONAL PARK 11,902 ha



**Highlights** Dorrigo's renowned boardwalks make its rainforests on the edge of the Great Escarpment one of Australia's most accessible World Heritage areas.

**Activities** Venture out on the Skywalk (level ground) and Walk with the Birds (500 metres return, seating provided) — both suitable for wheelchairs. Picnic with the brush turkeys at The Glade, visit the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre and Canopy Cafe or take one of the frequent Discovery tours. Try the waterfall tracks such as the Wonga Walk, a 3-hour sealed return walk through World Heritage rainforest, or one of the more challenging walks at Never Never picnic area.

**Access** 2 km east of Dorrigo on Dome Road.

Dorrigo, phone 6657 2309

BELOW: Beautiful beaches lie to the north and south of Diamond Head in Crowdy Bay National Park — wait till low tide and then head out to explore the coastline. Photo: G.McConnell, courtesy Tourism NSW



## 17 Dunggir

NATIONAL PARK 2651 ha

**Highlights** Ridges thick with blackbutt, brush box and blue gum, and shaded rainforest gullies shelter koalas, yellow-bellied gliders and glossy black cockatoos. Kosekai Lookout has views over the surrounding forest and distant coast.

**Activities** There are no picnic areas or walking tracks but you can reach Kosekai Lookout by road (unsealed, 4WD needed in wet weather) or explore the mountain on foot if you're an experienced walker.

**Access** 27 km west of Bowraville on Kosekai Road off Taylors Arm Road.

**Coffs Harbour, phone 6652 0900**

## 18 Glenrock

STATE CONSERVATION AREA 516 ha



**Highlights** This coastal strip, bounded by the suburbs of Merewether and Dudley, protects the last remnant of coastal rainforest in the Newcastle region.

**Activities** Swim (unpatrolled beach), surf or fish at Dudley or Burwood beach, picnic at Dudley Beach, or walk the Yeulerbah Track, part of the Great North Walk. A hangliding pad is available at Hickson Street.

**Access** 160 km north of Sydney, 5 km east of Charlestown off Burwood Road via Dudley Road, and 5 km south of Newcastle via the Pacific Highway.

**Nelson Bay, phone 4984 8200**

## 19 Hat Head

NATIONAL PARK 7396 ha



**Camping fee level** 2

**Highlights** A rich coastal environment with superb views from Hat Head and Smoky Cape.

**Activities** Historic Smoky Cape Lighthouse offers tours and accommodation in the assistant lighthouse-keeper's cottages (phone 6566 6301). Captain Cook Lookout has wheelchair access, and there's a picnic area with facilities at Smoky Cape. Car-based and camper-trailer camping are available at Smoky Beach and also at Hungry Gate camping area south of Hat Head.

**Access** 24 km north-east of Kempsey off the road to South West Rocks. Vehicle entry fee of \$7 applies at Hungry Gate and Smoky Beach.

**Arakoon, phone 6566 6621**

## 20 Hunter Wetlands

NATIONAL PARK 4254 ha



**Highlights** This national park includes the previous Kooragang and Hexham Swamp Nature Reserves, and incorporates Stockton Sandspit and part of Ash Island. This is the largest single-estuary wetland reserve in NSW, providing a magnet for migratory shorebirds from the northern hemisphere.

**Activities** There are good bird-watching viewing areas near Stockton Bridge. You can also visit the Kooragang Wetlands, a rehabilitation project on Ash Island, and explore the mangroves along the board walk.

**Access** Kooragang wetlands and Ash Island: 9 km north-west of Newcastle CBD. Follow the signs towards Raymond Terrace along the Pacific Highway, then turn right at the Kooragang Wetlands sign.

Stockton Sandspit: 4 km north of Newcastle under the Stockton Bridge.

**Nelson Bay, phone 4984 8200**

### ACCOMMODATION

## Smoky Cape Lighthouse Cottages

So you're looking for a secluded hideaway, a place to relax in a beautiful spot away from the crowds? Perhaps you'd like to throw in the romance of a heritage cottage — and all in a national park.

Smoky Cape Lighthouse B&B is a fully-restored lighthouse keeper's cottage in Hat Head National Park, just minutes from South West Rocks.

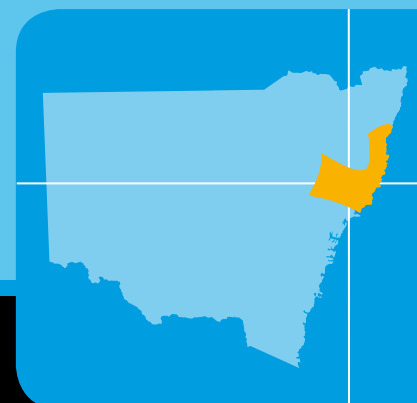
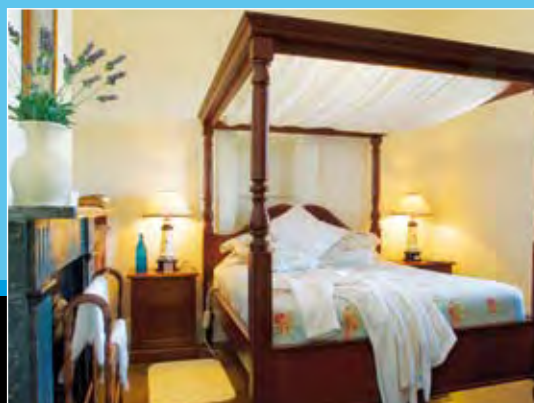
You'll be spoilt with a three-course country breakfast — or if you prefer self contained accommodation, the assistant lighthouse keepers' cottage is available for two groups of up to six.

You'll have easy access to the Smoky Cape Lighthouse, a popular visitor attraction, featuring spectacular ocean views and a great spot for dolphin and whale watching.

Explore the many walking tracks and pristine beaches that are part of Hat Head National Park, which also protects one of the largest dune systems in NSW. Head to South West Rocks to visit the historic Trial Bay Gaol — or simply relax and enjoy some of the best ocean views you'll see anywhere.

**For more information and bookings**  
Phone: 02 6566 6301  
Email: [smokycapelighthouse@tsn.cc](mailto:smokycapelighthouse@tsn.cc)

Smoky Cape Lighthouse Cottages  
Photos: M. Van Ewijk/DECCW





## 21 Kattang

NATURE RESERVE 58 ha



**Highlights** Spectacular coastal scenery from lookouts on Perpendicular Point, with Dooragan National Park as a dramatic inland backdrop.

**Activities** The Flower Bowl Circuit is a must if you're a native flower lover — visit in the early spring. There are easy walks with impressive views from Perpendicular Point, a superb whale-watching site.

**Access** 5 km east of Laurieton, 35 km south of Port Macquarie, and 13 km from Kew off the Pacific Highway. Enter off Bergalia Crescent or Charles Hamey Lookout, which are both off Camden Head Road.

**Port Macquarie, phone 6588 5555**

## 22 Limeburners Creek

NATURE RESERVE 9224 ha



**Camping fee level** 3

**Highlights** Spectacular coast between Port Macquarie and Crescent Head. Heathlands, banksia and blackbutt forest and the rare rainforests of Big Hill provide shelter for the threatened and well-camouflaged ground parrot. Limeburners Creek, Saltwater Lake and the surrounding sand ridges support an unusual mixture of vegetation communities and habitats.

**Activities** The beach is popular for swimming, surfing, fishing or just relaxing. Car-based and caravan

camping is available at Point Plomer (for information phone 6583 8805) or Melaleuca camping area (basic facilities); however sites are busy in summer and the access road is unsealed. Bring your own drinking water, and provide your own firewood or purchase it on site. Amenities are wheelchair-accessible.

**Access** 15 km south of Crescent Head off the Plomer Road. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Arakoon, phone 6566 6621**

## 23 Lord Howe Island

MARINE PARK 48,000 ha



**Highlights** The marine park surrounding Lord Howe Island contains the world's southernmost barrier coral reef. The reef is close to the shoreline and the coral and fish can be seen while snorkelling from the beach or on glass-bottom boat tours. The island's marine environment is home to over 450 species of fish. Green and hawksbill turtles are common in summer, but may be observed throughout the year

**Activities** Swimming, surfing, snorkelling and scuba diving are all popular in the crystal waters of the park, and boat trips, fishing and diving tours operate from the island. Accommodation is available in lodges on the island.

**Access** 700 km north-east of Sydney. The island is served by air services from Sydney, Brisbane and Port Macquarie.

**Manager, Lord Howe Island Marine Park, phone 6563 2359**

**Manager, Lord Howe Island Board, phone 6563 2066**

## 24 Macquarie

NATURE RESERVE 12 ha



**Highlights** Historic Roto House (1891) sits amid a tranquil natural setting near the heart of Port Macquarie.

**Activities** On most days of the year volunteers can take you on a tour of the house (gold coin donation). Wheelchair access is available to Roto House and verandahs. Enjoy a picnic lunch in the spacious grounds or visit the nearby koala hospital and look for koalas in the trees.

**Access** In Port Macquarie, just off Lord Street.

**Port Macquarie, phone 6588 5555**  
**Roto House, phone 6584 2180**

## 25 Middle Brother

NATIONAL PARK 1830 ha



**Highlights** This small park protects Benaroon and the Bird Tree, two of the largest blackbutt trees in NSW. Middle Brother is one of three brothers mountains featured in a local Aboriginal legend.

**Activities** The Bird Tree day-use area provides a short loop walk track through the old-growth forest to the two giant blackbutts.

**Access** Middle Brother Road leaves the Pacific Highway at Stewarts River, 11 km south of Kew. Follow the signs to Bird Tree day-use area off Grey Gum Ridge Road.

**Port Macquarie, phone 6588 5555**



LEFT: Discover the underwater wonders of the world's southernmost barrier coral reef on a dive in Lord Howe Island Marine Park.

Photo: G.McConnell, courtesy Tourism NSW

BELOW: Take a boat out on Two Mile Lake in Myall Lakes National Park.

Photo: D.Fuchs, courtesy Tourism NSW



## 26 Moonee Beach

NATURE RESERVE 336 ha



**Highlights** A precious remnant of coastline just north of Coffs Harbour protecting rare headland plants, coastal rainforest and a pristine estuary.

**Activities** There are great coastal views from the wheelchair-accessible headland lookout and walking tracks from Emerald Beach. Look At Me Now Headland is spiritually significant to local Aboriginal communities. Camping is not permitted but there are privately owned caravan parks at Moonee and Emerald beaches.

**Access** 13 – 23 km north of Coffs Harbour off the Pacific Highway. Moonee Creek is on Moonee Beach Road. Look At Me Now Headland is on Dammerel Crescent at Emerald Beach.

**Coffs Harbour, phone 6652 0900**

## 27 Mount Royal

NATIONAL PARK 6920 ha



**Camping fee level** 2

**Highlights** An array of rainforest, shrubland and eucalypt forest provides habitats for threatened species such as the Hastings River mouse and parma wallaby.

**Activities** Enjoy bushwalking, picnicking and birdwatching in this unspoiled environment. Take in spectacular views from Pieries Peak near Youngville picnic area. The park is accessible only by an unsealed road with limited access in wet weather. Visitors are advised to contact the local office about road conditions. The picnic and camping area off Mount Royal Road has gas barbecues and accessible toilets.

**Access** 50 km north of Singleton. Enter from Bridgeman Road off the New England Highway.

**Bulga, phone 6574 5555**

## 28 Muttonbird Island

NATURE RESERVE 8 ha



**Highlights** Each year, thousands of muttonbirds come to the most significant breeding site in the state. Join a Discovery guided tour to learn about the rookery and the Aboriginal significance of the island.

**Activities** A paved walking track crosses the island between the birds' fragile burrows.

Enjoy the seascape and passing whales (June to September) from the viewing platform, and great views of Solitary Islands Marine Park and adjacent coast. Camping is not permitted in the reserve but there's plenty of accommodation at Coffs Harbour.

**Access** In Coffs Harbour at the eastern end of the northern breakwall at Coffs Harbour jetty.

**Coffs Harbour, phone 6652 0900**

## 29 Myall Lakes

NATIONAL PARK 47,493 ha



**Camping fee level** 3

**Highlights** This park includes one of the state's largest coastal lake systems — a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance — as well as 40 km of beaches, giant sand dunes and areas of forest catchment. The Grandis, a 76-m-high flooded gum, is one of the tallest trees in the state. Visit the historic lighthouse at Sugarloaf Point, Seal Rocks.

**Activities** The lakes and beaches are perfect for all types of water activities — and if you don't have your own craft you can hire one locally. There are lakeside and forest picnic and camping areas with car-based and caravan camping as well as walk-in sites. Remote boat-based camping is available in designated areas around the lakes. You can also stay at Sugarloaf Point lighthouse, see [www.sugarloafpointlighthouseaccommodation.com.au](http://www.sugarloafpointlighthouseaccommodation.com.au) for details.

Bookings are not required for camping. Most areas offer basic facilities, but bring your own drinking water and firewood (check locations where fires are permitted). Myall Shores Resort at Bombah Point (phone 4997 4495) offers accommodation, powered campsites, bar and restaurant, kiosk, fuel, telephone and boat/canoe hire. The historic Cutler's Cottage, situated on the lake's edge, offers accommodation for up to six people (phone: 4997 4566). Wheelchair access is provided at Mungo Brush, Violet Hill and The Grandis. 4WD beach driving is available from Hawks Nest to Little Gibber, Mungo to Big Gibber and on Lighthouse Beach. Do not drive on dunes or vegetation.

## ACCOMMODATION

### Plomer Beach House

Pristine coastline with spectacular whale-watching, rainforests, birds and wildlife — Limeburners Creek Nature Reserve protects a rare and valuable strip of coastal wilderness.

Within the park, Plomer Beach House is your personal haven, nestled in a bushland setting with direct access to the beach.

It's a place to get away from it all, to enjoy swimming, surfing, canoeing and kayaking and to try your hand at beach fishing or surfing. Or just to stroll hand in hand along a pristine beach, gentle waves lapping on the sand, or through a cool rainforest teeming with birdlife.

The beach house has 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, and sleeps up to 12 people. It's fully furnished, including a kitchen and laundry.

**For more information and bookings**  
**Phone: 02 6566 6168**



Plomer Beach House  
Photo: M. Van Ewijk/DECCW





There are many walks to suit all levels, including overnight hiking opportunities. Take the delightful car-ferry ride at Bombah Point for an ideal touring route between Tea Gardens and Bulahdelah. O'Sullivan's Gap picnic area is a peaceful rest stop on the old Pacific Highway, 9 km north of Bulahdelah. The Grandis is accessible along Stoney Creek Road from either the Lakes Way or Old Pacific Highway.

**Access** 35 km south of Forster off The Lakes Way, 15 km off Pacific Highway via Tea Gardens or 11 km via Bulahdelah. Some roads in the park are unsealed. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Pacific Palms, phone 6591 0300**  
**Nelson Bay, phone 4984 8200**

## Broughton Island



Broughton Island is located within the Port Stephens — Great Lakes Marine Park has been a part of Myall lakes National Park since it's establishment in 1972.

At 114 hectares, it is the largest coastal island off NSW. Located 3km off Dark Point and 16 km north-east of the Port Stephens entrance, Broughton Island is only accessible by boat. Most of the shoreline is rocky with steep cliffs. Scenic sandy beaches within Esmeralda Cove and along providence Beach provide access for small boats. There's also camping and toilets at Poverty Beach, but no wood fires are permitted.

## 30 Ngambaa

NATURE RESERVE 10,560 ha



**Highlights** Ngambaa (meaning 'tribe that lived between nations') is located on the boundary between the Gumbayngirr and Dunghutti language groups. Areas of old-growth forest protect a number of threatened species, such as the powerful owl, koala and giant barred frog.

**Activities** The scenic Tamban Forest Drive from the Pacific Highway near Kempsey leads to Cedar Park picnic area, where a short walking track reveals the delights of this rainforest remnant.

**Access** 20 km north of Kempsey along Tamban, Elliotts and Searles roads from Eungai Creek or Collombatti, then Range Road from Frederickton (unsealed roads; 4WD needed in wet weather).

**Coffs Harbour, phone 6652 0900**

## 31 Nymboi-Binderay

NATIONAL PARK 17,243 ha



**Camping fee level** 2

**Highlights** The dramatic granite gorges and rainforest-lined banks of the rugged Nymboida River produce rapids renowned among white-water enthusiasts.

**Activities** Rafting is certainly the best way to fully appreciate the stunning beauty of the river, and several commercial operators conduct tours in the park. If walking is more to your taste, you can wander through a magnificent stand of tallowwood trees and coachwood rainforest at Norman W. Jolly Memorial Grove (wheelchair-accessible). Picnicking, swimming and car-based camping (not suitable for caravans) are available at Platypus Flat (unsealed; 4WD when wet) and The Junction (4WD only) on the Nymboida River.

**Access** 25 km north of Dorrigo on Moonpar Road (unsealed; 4WD when wet) off Tyringham Road or Moses Rock Road (unsealed) from the village of Cascade. Access to the northern part of the park is on Black Mountain Road via Grafton, Nymboida or Glenreagh (unsealed; 4WD only).

**Dorrigo, phone 6657 2309**  
**Grafton, phone 6641 1500**

## 32 Port Stephens—Great Lakes

MARINE PARK 98 000 ha



**Highlights** Port Stephens—Great Lakes Marine Park extends from Cape Hawke Surf Life Saving Club near Forster south to Birubi Beach life Saving Club at the northern end of Stockton Beach and includes offshore waters to the 3 nautical mile limit of state waters. It includes Port Stephens and the Karuah River, the Myall River, Myall and Smiths lakes and all their creeks and tributaries to the tidal limit. The park's diverse marine life includes many species of dolphins, turtles, fish, invertebrates, seabirds and seaweeds along with threatened species such as the gould's petrel, little tern, grey nurse shark and green turtle. Humpback whales travel along the marine park coastline during their annual migration north. Important islands, major estuarine wetlands and lake systems feature among a variety of park habitats. Many significant Indigenous cultural and spiritual sites are located within or adjacent to the marine park.

**Activities** The park provides for a wide variety of water-based recreational activities including fishing within permitted zones, whale watching, boating, swimming, snorkelling, diving and other water sports. Picnic, camping and accommodation facilities are available in several national parks and local towns surrounding the marine park.

LEFT: Nymboi-Binderay National Park is famous for its white-water adventures.

Photo: J.Walker/DECCW

BELOW: Saltwater National Park is accessible by bicycle on even the smallest legs.

Photo: K.Carter/DECCW



**Access** Numerous access points throughout Port Stephens and the Great Lakes area.

**Port Stephens, phone 4916 3970**

### 33 Saltwater

NATIONAL PARK 33 ha



**Highlights** This small coastal reserve east of Taree has been a popular recreational spot for over a century, and before that an Aboriginal seasonal camp for thousands of years. The park conserves rare coastal rainforest and wetlands.

**Activities** There are two swimming beaches and a spectacular headland. Walking tracks lead through the reserve and into adjoining Khappinghat Nature Reserve.

**Access** 15 km east of Taree along the Old Bar Road.

**Taree, phone 6552 4097**

### Sea Acres

RAINFOREST CENTRE

**Pacific Drive, Port Macquarie**  
**Phone 6582 3355**

Sea Acres offers tours of the rare subtropical rainforest, an ecology display, a gift and souvenir shop and conference facilities. There's an entry fee to the rainforest boardwalk. The Centre is open 7 days, 9 am to 4.30 am (closed Christmas Day). The Rainforest Café offers a pleasant leafy venue for relaxed dining (cafe enquiries: phone 6582 4444).

### 34 Sea Acres

NATURE RESERVE 76 ha



**Highlights** The Sea Acres coastal rainforest community is the most diverse in the region and the Rainforest Centre is a 'must see' eco-tourism attraction.

**Activities** Get into the rainforest on the 1.3 km wheelchair-accessible boardwalk — a fee applies. You can drive to Shelly Beach off Pacific Drive or walk in to Miners Beach off Lighthouse Road.

**Access** 4 km south of the Port Macquarie CBD on Pacific Drive.

**Port Macquarie,**  
**phone 6582 3355 or 6588 5555**

### 35 Sherwood

NATURE RESERVE 5935 ha



**Highlights** Landscapes range from rugged sandstone escarpments and coastal ridges with dry open forests and heaths to subtropical rainforest gullies. These differing habitats provide refuge to a diversity of species including sooty and powerful owls, giant barred frogs and leaf-tailed geckoes. Lovely panoramic views over the Orara Valley can be enjoyed from the escarpment while the Woolgoolga Creek area in the southern section contains one of the few coastal subtropical rainforest remnants on the north coast of NSW.

**Activities** Picnic or barbecue in picturesque Woolgoolga Creek picnic area and take an easy 3-km return walk to the waterfall through the rainforest along the creek. A scenic 4WD drive from Woolgoolga to Nana Glen along Gentle Annie Road offers the chance to experience a wide diversity of landscapes.

**Access** Woolgoolga Creek picnic area is 4 km west of Woolgoolga and is accessed via Woolgoolga Creek Road, a short 3-km drive from the Pacific Highway.

**Coffs Harbour, phone 6652 0900**

### 36 Tapin Tops

NATIONAL PARK 10,976 ha



**Camping fee level 2**

**Highlights** High on the Great Escarpment, Tapin Tops National Park protects old-growth eucalypt forests and rainforests, and provides a unique habitat for threatened species such as the parma wallaby, squirrel glider and sphagnum frog.

**Activities** Rowleys Lookout (1018 metres; a strenuous 45-minute walk from carpark) offers a sweeping view of Head and Shoulders Cliff. Dingo Tops rest area, in the middle of the rainforest, has picnic facilities, forestry machinery relics and two walking trails. There's another picnic area at Potoroo, and car-based camping at the intersection of Knodingbul Road and Dingo Tops Road (short walk from carpark).

**Access** 44 km north-west of Wingham along the Dingo Tops Forest Road.

**Taree, phone 6552 4097**

## STAYING SAFE AT THE BEACH

National parks feature some of the most beautiful beaches in NSW. They're there to be enjoyed by everyone, but when you're swimming, walking or relaxing by the beach it's important to take precautions such as:

- ▶ At beaches patrolled by lifeguards, swim between the flags. At unpatrolled beaches take care when swimming as strong currents and rips (undertows) can occur even on still days. If surf beaches are too daunting, some bays and lagoons may be suitable for swimming.
- ▶ Don't swim or go to isolated beaches alone.
- ▶ Only swim during daylight hours.
- ▶ Be careful when walking on rocks — they can be very slippery, and a 'rogue' wave could wash you off.
- ▶ Avoid marine stingers. Don't swim if bluebottles (stinging jellyfish) are visible in the water, and don't touch any octopuses in rockpools (the deadly blue-ringed octopus can be difficult to identify because it only turns blue several minutes after being angered).
- ▶ Protect your skin by using sunscreen and wearing protective clothing and a hat.
- ▶ Avoid rock fishing; it can be dangerous and is not encouraged.
- ▶ While shark attacks are exceptionally rare, helpful information on shark meshing and the precautions swimmers can take to minimise the risk of attack can be found on the Industry and Investment NSW shark meshing (bather protection) program webpage visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/). One of the simplest things swimmers can do when at a patrolled beach is to swim between the flags as lifeguards are there to ensure the safety of swimmers.

For more safety tips see pages 2, 39, 43, 65, 71 and 83. You can also visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parksafety/](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parksafety/).



## 37 Tomaree

NATIONAL PARK 2347 ha



**Highlights** Rocky headlands and plenty of white sandy beaches are backed by angophora and melaleuca forest and spring-flowering heath.

**Activities** Take a walk to the top of Tomaree Headland for superb views of Port Stephens and the coast, or to Fingal Island. There's good rock and beach fishing, and commercial accommodation nearby. Nude bathing is permitted at Samurai Beach.

**Access** 50 km north of Newcastle, 3 km north-east of Nelson Bay off Shoal Bay Road or Gan Gan Road.

**Nelson Bay, phone 4984 8200**

## 38 Towarri

NATIONAL PARK 5328 ha



**Camping fee level** 3

**Highlights** Sandstone outcrops and scenic outlooks feature in a rugged landscape of former grazing properties harbouring rainforest, snow gums and large grass tree stands.

**Activities** There are no defined paths, but steep hills and spectacular summit views offer a rewarding challenge for experienced bushwalkers. The Washpool's picnic area has wheelchair access and is a great place to bring the family; note, however, that the Washpool's camping area is not wheelchair-accessible.

**Access** 25 km north-west of Scone via Middlebrook Road (unsealed) and off Cressfield Road. The Washpool's camping area is accessed across Middlebrook Creek.

**Scone, phone 6540 2300**  
**Nelson Bay, phone 4984 8200**

## 39 Ulidarra

NATIONAL PARK 680 ha

**Highlights** Near Coffs Harbour and adjoining Bruxner Park Flora Reserve, Ulidarra's old-growth coastal eucalypt forest provides habitats for a diverse range of fauna, including koalas, masked owls, wompoo pigeons and little bent-wing bats.

**Activities** The drive through the park from Bruxner Park to Karangi offers lovely views, and you're sure to find a cool spot for a picnic beside Bucca Bucca Creek on Shelter Road.

**Access** 5 km north of Coffs Harbour via Swans Road off Bruxner Park Road, or Convincing Ground Road off Coramba Road (unsealed roads; 4WD needed when wet).

**Coffs Harbour, phone 6652 0900**

## 40 Wallingat

NATIONAL PARK 6557 ha



**Camping fee level** 2

**Highlights** Whoota Lookout, one of the best natural viewing platforms on the mid-north coast, provides magnificent views of the park's eucalypt forests and along the Forster coastline.

**Activities** Walking tracks lead from Sugar Creek through cabbage palm and flooded gum forests. There are picnic facilities at Sugar Creek, Gur-um-bee ('white gum tree') and Wallingat River. Car-based camping (caravans not recommended) is available by the Wallingat River.

**Access** 30 km south-east of Forster along the Lakes Way and Sugar Creek Road. All roads within the park are unsealed — take care after rain.

**Pacific Palms, phone 6591 0300**  
**Nelson Bay, phone 4984 8200**

## 41 Watagans

NATIONAL PARK 7751 ha



**Camping fee level** 1

**Highlights** This park protects the headwaters of Congewai and Quorrobolong creeks, which flow into the Hunter River, and Gap and Dora creeks, which feed into Lake Macquarie.

**Activities** Magnificent red cedar and Illawarra flame trees line the walk to Gap Creek Falls. High points provide marvellous views of rainforest gullies, while Monkey Face Lookout sits above the Martinsville Valley. Boarding House Dam picnic area, set among large blackbutt and blue gum trees, offers rainforest walks along the creek, or a paddle on a hot summer's day. Car-based camping is available at the small Bangalow and Gap Creek camping areas with free gas barbecues adjacent to Bangalow Road, 3.8 km and 4.8 km respectively from the Mt Faulk Road intersection. Fireplaces are available but visitors need to bring their own firewood.

**Access** 150 km north of Sydney, 30 km south-west of Newcastle. Enter via Martinsville Road (partly unsealed) from Cooranbong, Mt Faulk Road (unsealed) from Freemans Drive, or Watagan Road (unsealed) from Cessnock. All roads are 2WD-accessible in dry weather only.

**Lake Munmorah, phone 4972 9000**

## 42 Werakata

NATIONAL PARK 3337 ha



**Highlights** The park has a rich history of Aboriginal occupation and, more recently, forestry operation. Today it conserves a diversity of plants and animals including a number of threatened species and endangered ecological communities.

BELOW: Check out nature's artworks on a rainforest walk in Watagans National Park. Photo courtesy Tourism NSW



**Activities** Enjoy a picnic at Astills Picnic Area and explore the Kurri Sand Swamp Woodland. A great way to see the park is by bicycle. One of the best routes is to depart from the picnic area, cycle north along Deadmans Trail and then return to the picnic area via Gibsons Road. The Forestry Hut off Old Maitland Road is one of the few remaining huts of this type and function, and shows how forestry work was undertaken when transport was not as efficient as it is now.

**Access** 6 km north of Cessnock, enter along Lomas Lane off Allandale Road (Wine Country Drive).

**Bulga, phone 6574 5555**

## 43 Willi Willi

NATIONAL PARK 29,870 ha



**Highlights** This rainforest mountain park lies along a section of the Great Escarpment to the east of Oxley Wild Rivers and Werrikimbe national parks. The park is between the Macleay and Hastings river valleys and includes Kemps Pinnacle and Mt Banda Banda, both over 1100 metres above sea level.

**Activities** The main visitor area is located on the picturesque Wilson River, with picnic shelters, barbecues and toilets. There is a choice of three delightful rainforest walking tracks along the river and to a sparkling waterfall.

**Access** Wilson River is 52 km from Wauchope along the Hastings Forest Way. From the west, access is via the Oxley Highway and Cockerwombbeebea Road or Racecourse Trail if driving a 4WD vehicle.

**Arakoon, phone 6566 6621**  
**Kempsey, phone 6562 2376**



## 44 Wingham Brush

NATURE RESERVE 8 ha



**Highlights** The rainforest here is a rare remnant of subtropical floodplain rainforest which has been regenerated by the local community. It is one of the state's most significant maternity sites for the endangered grey-headed flying fox.

**Activities** The boardwalk is ideal for experiencing the rainforest and seeing the flying foxes, brush turkeys and land mullets, the largest skink in Australia. There are picnic facilities in the adjacent riverside park.

**Access** Enter from the picnic area on Farquhar Street.

**Taree, phone 6552 4097**

## 45 Woko

NATIONAL PARK 8598 ha



**Camping fee level** 3

**Highlights** The steep and rugged landscape features large areas of rainforest, moist eucalypt forest and impressive rock outcrops. The tranquil Manning River is a wonderful spot to sit and enjoy the surroundings.

**Activities** If you're an adventurous bushwalker you'll be rewarded with dramatic scenery and wonderful birdwatching opportunities, but remember that the terrain is steep. Car-based and caravan camping are available in the Woko camping area, where campers can enjoy a swim. Two walking tracks provide access to dry rainforests.

**Access** 35 km north of Gloucester via Curricabark Road (unsealed) off Thunderbolts Way (Walcha Road).

**Barrington Tops, phone 6538 5300**  
**Nelson Bay, phone 4984 8200**

## 46 Worimi

CONSERVATION LANDS 4200 ha



**Highlights** Incorporating the popular Stockton Beach which stretches from Stockton to Anna Bay, the Worimi Conservation Lands are co-managed by the local Worimi Aboriginal community in partnership with NPWS. The landscape contains significant cultural and natural values of particular importance to the Worimi community, and contains an extraordinary number of cultural sites

that pre-date the arrival of non-Aboriginal people to the area.

**Activities** Enjoy the wide open spaces of Stockton Beach, a popular beach for 4WDing, fishing and picnicking. The beach within the Worimi Conservation Lands is unpatrolled. Birubi Surf Lifesaving Club patrols a swimming area in the adjacent Birubi Point Crown

Reserve near Anna Bay. Dogs are permitted on Stockton Beach, but must remain on a leash at all times, and horse riding is also permitted. All vehicles entering the Worimi Conservation Lands must be registered, and display a current Worimi Conservation Lands Beach Vehicle Permit. RTA conditionally registered vehicles must hold a Worimi Conservation Lands Recreational Vehicle Area Permit. Permits are available from several local outlets and NPWS Hunter Region.

**Access** 4WD or pedestrian access only. Approximately 20 km north of Newcastle CBD to Lavis Lane entrance, Williamtown. Birubi Entrance is at Anna Bay, Port Stephens. You must hold a Worimi Conservation Lands Beach Vehicle Permit for vehicle entry to the lands. NPWS annual passes do not apply.

**Nelson Bay, phone 4984 8200**

## 47 Yarriabini

NATIONAL PARK 2183 ha



**Highlights** Enjoy stunning views from the prominent Mt Yarrahapinni (498 m), which is significant to the local Gumbaynggirr and Dunghutti Aboriginal peoples. Steep coastal foothills sustain old-growth forests, providing a haven for a range of threatened species.

**Activities** Picnic at The Pines picnic area, set among hoop pine and flooded gum, or enjoy a short rainforest walk. Drive to the lookout on Tower Road for panoramic coastal views.

**Access** 50 km north of Kempsey, 10 km south of Macksville. Take Way Way Forest Drive off Scotts Head Road or Rosewood Road from Warrell Creek on the Pacific Highway. Unsealed roads.

**Coffs Harbour, phone 6652 0900**

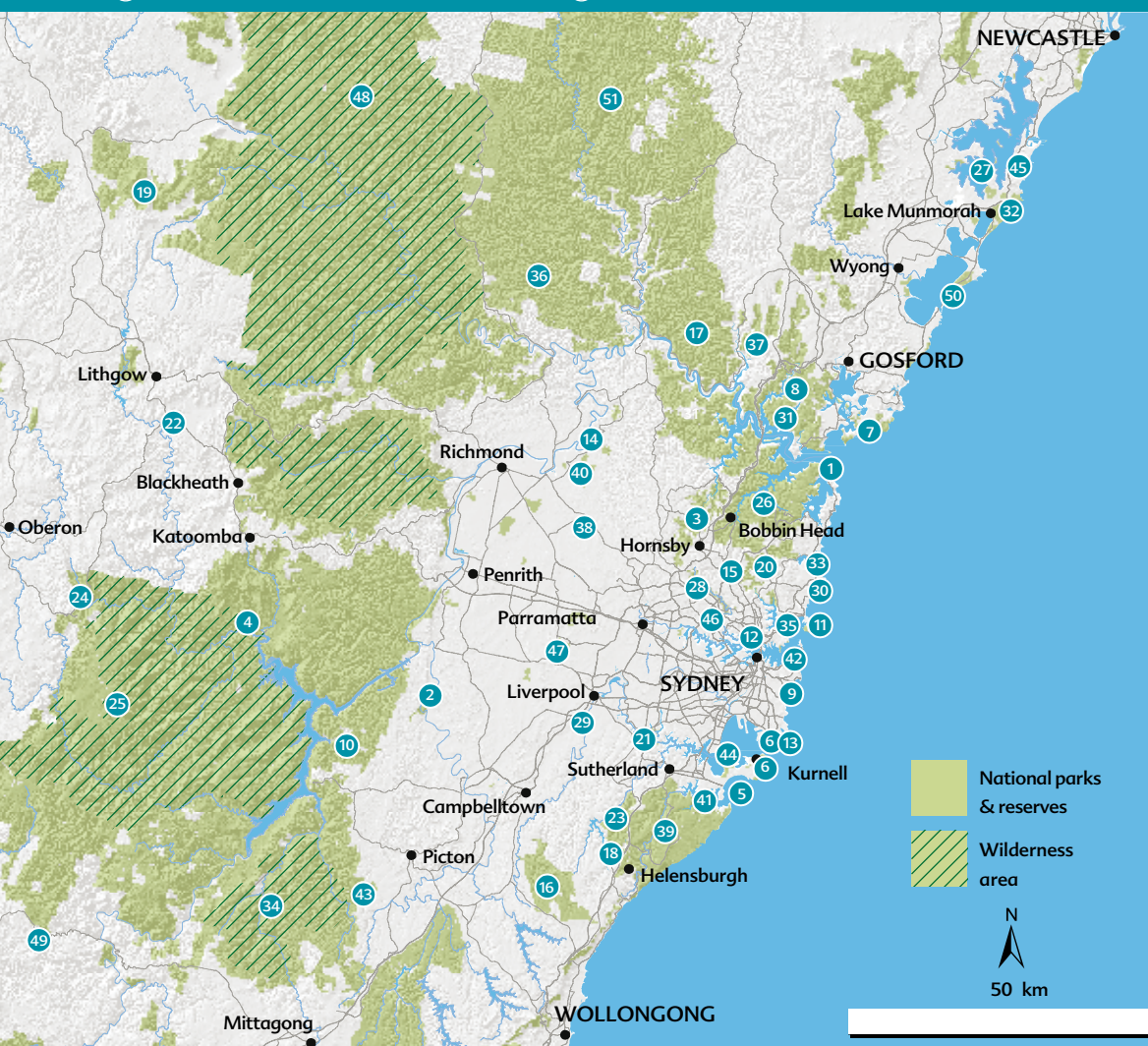


LEFT: Watch the sun set over the dunes of Stockton Beach in the Worimi Conservation Lands.  
Photo: G.Woods/DECCW



# Sydney & Surrounds

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REGION

Walking, picnicking, swimming — or just admiring iconic Sydney Harbour views — everyone can enjoy Sydney's magnificent parks all year round. Native bushland thrives within minutes of the centre of Australia's largest city, while the awesome World Heritage wilderness of the Blue Mountains National Park is right on Sydney's doorstep. Explore beyond the nature and uncover the history, mystery and heritage of the many national parks and reserves scattered between Newcastle and Wollongong. You'll find buildings constructed by convict labour and historic maritime and military installations. You'll also find many Aboriginal sites — signposts of an ancient and living heritage.

**More information:** [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/sydney](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/sydney)



Enjoy a romantic Sydney harbour escape at **Steele Point Cottage**.



Explore the rich Aboriginal and European history at **Kurnell** in **Botany Bay National Park**.



Take a tour or a picnic on one of **Sydney Harbour National Park's** islands.



Walk the spectacular **National Pass** in the **Blue Mountains**.



Follow the convict trail of the **Old Great North Road** in **Dharug National Park**.



Discover the hidden wonders of **Wombeyan Caves Karst Conservation Area**.

**FAR LEFT:** Take a ferry to Shark Island in Sydney Harbour National Park and cast a line or lay out a picnic.  
Photo: D.Smith/DECCW

**LEFT:** Just to the east of Manly Beach, Shelly Beach in the Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve provides a sheltered swimming spot that is popular for family visits.  
Photo: D.Smith/DECCW





**AQUATIC RESERVE** Approx. 20 ha



**Sydney North Information Centre,  
phone 9472 8949**

## STATE CONSERVATION AREA 48 ha



BELOW: The historic Barrenjoey lighthouse looks out over the tidal rock shelves that make up Barrenjoey Head Aquatic Reserve.  
Photo: M.Cooper/DECCW

HERITAGE CENTRE AND  
NATIONAL PARKS SHOP



The centre provides information on Blue Mountains National Park and surrounding areas, an interactive educational display, video screenings and a gallery. You can purchase National Parks walking track guides; maps; books on the Blue Mountains, Aboriginal history and flora and fauna; and Australian-made souvenirs, clothing and gifts. Open 7 days, 9 am to 4.30 pm (closed Christmas Day).



### 3 Berowra Valley

REGIONAL PARK 3870 ha



**Highlights** An area of natural bushland along the Berowra Creek Valley, one of the deep and scenic gorges that dissect the Hornsby Plateau.

The park protects a rich diversity of flora and fauna, including the koala, spotted-tailed quoll and powerful owl.

**Activities** There are a number of walking tracks, with the Great North Walk stretching the length of the park and scenic lookouts at Barnetts Road Reserve and Galston Gorge. Canoeing is popular on Berowra Creek from Crosslands Reserve. Picnic facilities are provided in many areas including Barnetts Road Reserve which has wheelchair access and a children's play area and Crosslands Reserve which has barbecue facilities. Backpack camping is permitted at approved locations along the Great North Walk and there are campsites available at Crosslands Reserve. For bookings phone Hornsby Shire Council Parks Booking Officer on 9847 6791. Only gas fires are permitted throughout the park

**Access** 24 km north-west of Sydney. The main access point is Crosslands Reserve at the end of Sommerville Road, Hornsby Heights.

**Sydney North Information Centre,**  
phone 9472 8949

### 4 Blue Mountains

NATIONAL PARK 267,183 ha



**Camping fee levels** 1 3

**Highlights** A World Heritage landscape that once intimidated explorers but now delights visitors. Famous lookouts and waterfalls around Govetts Leap (Blackheath), Echo Point (Katoomba) and Wentworth Falls provide panoramic views of dense forest and huge sandstone cliffs.

**Activities** Over 140 kilometres of walking tracks of all grades (some accessible for people with a disability) in diverse settings make the Blue Mountains a bushwalker's paradise.

See the Three Sisters from the Giant Stairway at Echo Point, or explore the historic Mt Werong and Ruby Creek area (south of Oberon). The National Parks Heritage Centre at Blackheath and visitor centres at Echo Point and Glenbrook provide information on local walking tracks. The Fairfax Heritage Track at Blackheath is a wheelchair-accessible track to Govetts Leap Lookout, and the Conservation Hut and Wentworth Falls picnic area also have great views that are wheelchair-accessible.

## RESPONSIBLE CANYONING

Canyons are unique and special places to visit and explore. They have their own unique challenges however, so to help minimise risks when canyoning:

- ▶ Take responsibility for your own safety and be self-reliant.
- ▶ Know the route, and have adequate food, safety and first aid gear, maps and clothing.
- ▶ Know how to swim and self-rescue on ropes.
- ▶ Don't climb alone!
- ▶ Avoid canyoning if rain is forecast or if the weather looks changeable. Unexpected and dangerous conditions are likely when water flows are above normal or when heavy rain is forecast.
- ▶ Test the water depth before entering.
- ▶ Teach beginner abseilers prior to canyon trips, rather than in canyons.
- ▶ Hypothermia is a real risk — wetsuits and spare warm clothes are advisable.
- ▶ Give way to faster groups.
- ▶ Avoid peak use times in well-known canyons if possible. This especially applies to Claustal in the Blue Mountains, where overcrowding can cause delays and safety problems.
- ▶ Leave details of your group, route and expected return time with a responsible person.
- ▶ Ring 000 in case of emergency.

For more safety tips see pages 2, 33, 43, 65, 71 and 83. You can also visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parksafety/](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parksafety/)



ABOVE: Mount Hay is just one of a hundred sculpted sandstone vistas you'll find around every corner in Blue Mountains National Park. Photo: C. Jones, courtesy Tourism NSW





## Lapérouse Museum

BOTANY BAY NATIONAL PARK

**Cable Station, Anzac Parade**

**La Perouse, phone 9337 5511 (museum enquiries) or 9311 3379 (tour bookings)**

The museum is near the site of the first landing of the First Fleet in January 1788 which was followed days later by the French explorer Comte de Lapérouse.

The museum has exhibitions on Australian history and La Perouse community heritage. Take a tour of Bare Island Fort; phone 9247 5033 for school holiday programs and special group activities. Open Wednesday to Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm (closed Christmas Day and Good Friday).

## Visitor Centre

BOTANY BAY NATIONAL PARK



**Kurnell, phone 9668 2000**

The centre's exhibition 'Eight Days that Changed the World' is an interpretation of the first contact between Aboriginal people and the crew of the *Endeavour* under the command of James Cook. A new film highlighting the historic values of the site can be viewed in the new theatre. The newly renovated visitor centre also has artefact and artwork displays. The display areas and toilets are wheelchair-accessible. The shop has a range of books, maps, gifts, souvenirs and refreshments. Open 10 am to 4.30 pm every weekend (closed Christmas day); also open 11 am to 3 pm weekdays.

Discovery program of walks and activities operates most weekends and during school holidays. Car-based camping is available at Euroka (near Glenbrook; bookings required and camping fees apply; book at Richmond Mon—Fri, Glenbrook phone 4739 2950 Sat—Sun, public holidays and school holidays); Murphys Glen (near Woodford); Ingar picnic area (drive from Wentworth Falls; camp a short walk from carpark); Perrys Lookdown (near Blackheath; short walk from carpark); Batsh Camp (short walk from carpark) and Mt Werong on the Oberon—Colong Stock Route to Yerranderie. Backpack camping is permitted in most areas (for details phone Blackheath).

**Access** 50–110 km west of Sydney with entry points off the Great Western Highway between Glenbrook and Mt Victoria, and the Oberon—Colong Stock Route. Close to railway stations at Glenbrook, Wentworth Falls, Leura, Katoomba, Blackheath and Mt Victoria. Vehicle entry fee of \$7 applies at Glenbrook only.

**Upper: Blackheath, phone 4787 8877**

**Eastern: Richmond, phone 4588 5247 (4739 2950 weekends)**

**Western: Oberon, phone 6336 1972**

## 5 Boat Harbour

AQUATIC RESERVE Approx. 72 ha



**Highlights** The reserve includes the southern part of the Kurnell peninsula, incorporating the whole of Merries Reef and extending east to three green 'Waterboard' vents at Potter Point, and extends 100 m seaward from the mean low water mark.

**Activities** People can line fish and spearfish (subject to normal restrictions) and collect rock lobster, sea lettuce and baitweed. It is prohibited to collect cunjevoi, commonly used as bait, and all invertebrates (dead or alive), including abalone, anemones, barnacles, chitons, cockles, crabs, mussels, octopus, pipis, sea urchins, starfish, snails and worms, and empty shells.

Recreational fishing competitions within the reserve require a permit.

**Access** Through Botany Bay National Park, Kurnell, via the Cape Baily Track. Also by boat or by walking from Green Hills along Cronulla beach and the private 4WD park.

**Kurnell, phone 9668 2000**

BELOW: Watch migrating whales or the setting sun from Cape Solander, in Botany Bay National Park.

Photo: H.Lund, courtesy Tourism NSW



BELOW: Follow Bouddi National Park's Coastal Walk from Putty Beach to Little Beach camp ground.

Photo: B.Peters/DECCW





## 6 Botany Bay

NATIONAL PARK 456 ha



**Highlights** The two headlands of Botany Bay (La Perouse and Kurnell) are rich in Aboriginal and European history. In 1770 the area was the meeting place of cultures, and it still is today.

**Activities** At La Perouse you can take a tour of Bare Island Fort, learn about the area at Lapérouse Museum and Visitor Centre, or enjoy one of the local beaches (excellent for diving). At Kurnell visit the Visitor Centre's museum and shop, or join an Aboriginal Discovery ranger for an insight into living with the land — phone 9542 0649 for Discovery information and bookings. The Banks—Solander Track is a self-guided walk, the Burrawang Walk is self-guided and wheelchair-accessible, and Cape Solander provides a superb vantage point for watching seasonal whale migrations.

**Access** 15–30 km south of Sydney. Entry to La Perouse is from Anzac Parade. Entry to Kurnell is from the end of Captain Cook Drive. Vehicle entry fee of \$7 applies at Kurnell.

**Kurnell, phone 9668 2000 or 9542 0649 (Discovery bookings)**  
**La Perouse, phone 9311 3379 or 9337 5511 (tour bookings)**

## 7 Bouddi

NATIONAL PARK 1532 ha



**Camping fee levels** 3 4

**Highlights** Small secluded beaches, fringed by rainforests, sandstone cliffs and coastal heaths blanketed in wildflower colour, make Bouddi National Park one of the most diverse and delightful reserves within the greater Sydney area.

**Activities** Drop in at the Maitland Bay Information Centre, staffed by local volunteers on weekends, for information about the park. Camping is available at Putty Beach (car-based, gas barbecues, toilets and water — no facilities for campervans and camper trailers), Little Beach (700m walk, gas barbecues, composting toilets, bring your own water) and at Tallow Beach (1200m walk, limited facilities). Bookings are essential (phone 4320 4203). Discover picturesque Maitland Bay and the wreck of the Maitland at the heart of the park's marine protected area. Explore the spectacular Bouddi Coastal Walk with its breathtaking views along the windswept coastline.

BELOW: The circuit walk at Girakool Picnic area in Brisbane Waters National Park is easily accessible for the whole family.  
 Photo: Evolving Images/DECCW

**Access** 95 km north of Sydney, 19 km south-east of Gosford along Avoca Drive and the Scenic Road. Vehicle entry fee of \$7 applies at Putty Beach. Catch a Busways bus from Gosford or Woy Woy Railway Station (phone 4368 2277 for details).

**Gosford, phone 4320 4200**

## 8 Brisbane Water

NATIONAL PARK 11,473 ha



**Highlights** This sandstone landscape is rich in Aboriginal art. You can see engravings at Bulgandry on Woy Woy Road (accessible boardwalk, but take care if sight-impaired as boardwalk is raised), and there are sweeping water views from Warrah Trig and Staples Lookout.

**Activities** Somersby Falls (accessible toilets) and Girrakool picnic areas have excellent picnic facilities and forest walks.

**Access** 60 km north of Sydney, 9 km south-west of Gosford. Girrakool is near Kariong off the Pacific Highway; Somersby Falls is along Somersby Falls Road off Wisemans Ferry Road. Vehicle entry fee of \$7 applies at Somersby Falls and Girrakool picnic areas.

**Gosford, phone 4320 4200**





## 9 Bronte-Coogee

AQUATIC RESERVE Approx. 43 ha



**Fishing is not permitted in the groper enclosure.**

**Highlights** The reserve includes the whole foreshore from the southern end of Bronte Beach to the rock baths at Coogee Beach from the mean high water mark to 100 m offshore from the mean low water mark.

**Activities** Swimming and snorkelling with the blue groper is popular in the area. People can line fish and collect rock lobster, sea lettuce and baitweed. However, all spearfishing and line fishing for groper is prohibited from the northern end of Clovelly to the southern end of Gordon's Bay and the adjoining waters out to 100 m offshore from the mean low water mark. It is prohibited to collect cunjevoi, commonly used as bait, and all invertebrates (dead or alive), including anemones, barnacles, chitons, cockles, crabs, mussels, octopus, pipis, sea urchins, starfish, snails and worms, and empty shells. Recreational fishing competitions within the reserve require a permit.

**Access** From the north, access is via Bronte Road, Bronte; to the south via Arden St Coogee or Clovelly Road, Clovelly. Additionally, the entire foreshore of the reserve can be accessed via the Bondi—Coogee coastal headland walkway.

**Port Stephens, phone 4916 3826**

## 10 Burragarang

STATE CONSERVATION AREA 17,642 ha



**Highlights** Burragarang Lookout is a window on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and provides breathtaking views of Lake Burragarang and the Nattai wilderness at any time of day.

**Activities** Shaded tables and barbecues are ideal for family picnics. Viewing points provide scenic vistas unparalleled in the district, and open areas provide play opportunities for the kids.

**Access** 80 km south-west of Sydney, 20 km west of Camden along Burragarang Road. The lookout is open during daylight hours and is the only part of the park accessible to the public by vehicle. Vehicle entry fee of \$3 per day.

**Picton, phone 4677 0859**

## 11 Cabbage Tree Bay

AQUATIC RESERVE Approx. 20 ha



**Highlights** The reserve includes the whole foreshore of the bay from Manly Surf Life Saving Club to the northern end of Shelly Beach Headland, and includes the whole of Cabbage Tree Bay. There are several types of rocky shores in this area, from wave exposed to moderately sheltered. Cabbage Tree Bay also includes sub-tidal reef habitat, seagrass beds and offshore kelp communities.

**Activities** Within the reserve you can enjoy many forms of recreation. Observe the marine plants and animals with care. Fishing by any method is prohibited in the area. It is prohibited to collect cunjevoi, commonly used as bait, any baitweed species and all invertebrates (dead or alive), including anemones, barnacles, chitons, cockles, crabs, mussels, octopus, pipis, sea urchins, starfish, snails and worms, and empty shells throughout the reserve.

**Access** Follow South Steyne Street along the Manly Beach foreshore. Turn into Bower Street to a parking area above Shelley Beach. Walk down the stairs onto Shelley Beach and Shelley Beach Headland.

**Port Stephens, phone 4916 3826**

## 12 Cadmans Cottage

HISTORIC SITE



**Highlights** Built in 1816, Cadmans Cottage is one of only a handful of Sydney buildings that remain from the first 30 years of the colony. Over the years this sandstone cottage has been, among other things, a water transport headquarters, a sailors' home and a water police station. It used to be beside the water, but since the construction of Circular Quay the harbour has 'moved' 100 metres away.

**Activities** The cottage now houses the Sydney Harbour National Park Information Centre. On the lower level there's a fascinating (free) exhibition on the building's history, its relationship to Sydney Cove, and life in early Sydney.

RIGHT: Historic Cadmans Cottage was built as part of the Government Dockyards in 1816, and now houses a museum and information centre. Photo: DECCW

FAR RIGHT: Sydney's aquatic reserves protect a wide range of flora and fauna, such as this biscuit starfish. Photo: D.Harasti



**Access** In Sydney at 110 George Street, The Rocks. Walk from Circular Quay Railway Station or catch any bus headed for Circular Quay or The Rocks.

**The Rocks, phone 9247 5033**

## 13 Cape Banks

**AQUATIC RESERVE** Approx. 22 ha



**Highlights** The reserve includes the whole foreshore from the bridge at Cape Banks to the Endeavour Light at Henry Head, and extends 100 m seaward from the mean low water mark. The reserve is surrounded by the Botany Bay National Park which assists in preserving the natural integrity of this very beautiful site. Cape Banks has been a world-recognised site for marine research since the 1960s.

All five major rocky intertidal habitats are found here, including platforms, crevices, rock-pools, boulders and cobbles, resulting in a diversity of intertidal communities.

**Activities** People can line fish and spearfish (subject to normal restrictions) and collect rock lobster, sea lettuce and baitweed. It is prohibited to collect cunjevoi, commonly used as bait, and all invertebrates (dead or alive), including anemones, barnacles, chitons, cockles, crabs, mussels, octopus, pipis, sea urchins, starfish, snails and worms, and empty shells.

Recreational fishing competitions within the reserve require a permit.

**Access** Through the Botany Bay National Park, La Perouse, via the Henry Head Fire Trail.

**Port Stephens, phone 4916 3826**



## STAYING SAFE ON A BUSHWALK

Walking tracks provide all kinds of opportunities to explore the parks and reserves of NSW. You can walk through many different environments from eucalypt forests to heathlands or rainforests to mallee, and find features such as Aboriginal or historic sites, lookouts, waterfalls, whales, wildflowers and more. For an enjoyable and safe bushwalking experience, plan ahead and take precautions such as:

### Be well prepared

- ▶ Ensure that everyone in your group has researched the walk and planned ahead.
- ▶ Check weather forecasts and local park conditions and modify your plans accordingly.
- ▶ Go in a group of three or more — in an emergency this allows one to stay with an injured or ill person and one or more to go for help.
- ▶ Have a compass and map and know how to use them. Check directional, warning and advisory signs. If you have a mobile phone, remember that it may not receive or transmit in some areas. Consider taking an emergency beacon.
- ▶ Take appropriate clothing and wear closed footwear — preferably boots or runners. Regardless of the season, always take a windproof/waterproof jacket, and clothing that can keep you warm when wet.
- ▶ For camping take a good tent and a sleeping bag appropriate to the conditions.
- ▶ For any walk of more than a kilometre or so, take more water, snacks (such as fruit or health bars) and a first aid kit. Insect repellent and a torch can prove to be very useful.
- ▶ Don't overestimate your abilities or those of the others in the group. Always allow time for the unexpected, like thick scrub or cliff lines.
- ▶ Remember your safety is dependent on your fitness and experience, as well as leadership and equipment. Every trip should include at least one experienced bushwalker.
- ▶ Give complete route details of where you are going to close relatives or friends, or the police. Tell them when you are leaving and returning and anyone's special medical conditions, for example, diabetes or asthma. Remember to let them know as soon as you get back.

### If you become lost

- ▶ Stay where you are if you become lost — you'll be harder to find on the move and will use a lot of energy.
- ▶ Keep your walking group together during your trip, unless part of the group must go for help in an emergency. There is safety in numbers.

- ▶ Don't leave an injured person alone in the bush.
- ▶ If there is no mobile phone coverage, and as a last resort only, activate a locator beacon (see below).

### Be water smart

- ▶ Be self-sufficient with drinking water. Carry enough water or ensure you have the equipment and knowledge to make untreated water safe for drinking. Be aware that there is not always water available.
- ▶ Drinking untreated water such as creek water, bore water, or sometimes even rainwater, can lead to illnesses including gastroenteritis. Natural water sources should be used with caution and water treatment methods used to make water safe to drink. Remember, think before you drink and treat the water if you are unsure.

### Emergency beacons

- ▶ Mobile phone network coverage is limited to populated areas and transport corridors. Many parks are out of range. If you're planning a walk in a remote area, you can hire a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) or Emergency Position Indicating Response Beacon (EPIRB) as an added safety precaution.
- ▶ If you're planning a walk in Blue Mountains National Park, free PLBs are available for loan when you register your walk with NSW Police or the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). You can pick one up from the NPWS office in Blackheath between 9am and 4pm or after hours at Katoomba and Springwood Police Stations (phone 02 4782 8199 or 02 4751 0299).
- ▶ Kosciuszko National Park also hires out PLBs to bushwalkers for a small fee — contact the Tumut, Khancoban and Jindabyne NPWS offices for more information.
- ▶ Information on how to hire a PLB or EPIRB anywhere in NSW can be found at [www.epirbhire.com.au](http://www.epirbhire.com.au) or phone 1300 361 967 for contact details for NPWS offices.
- ▶ **Remember the emergency beacon is to be used as a last resort only.** Your initial distress alert should still be made by telephone, radio or other direct communication if possible.

For more safety tips see pages 2, 33, 39, 65, 71 and 83. You can also visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parksafety/](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parksafety/).





NSW National Parks  
and Wildlife Service

Naturally, the greatest national park experience is simply to be there — to immerse yourself in a pristine environment, revive and rejuvenate, to breathe fresh air.

Whether you're looking to be active — or just find a place to relax — the network of more than 790 NSW national parks and reserves has plenty to offer.

### CAST A LINE

That perfect fishing spot ... once you find it you'll probably want to keep it to yourself. Throughout the guide you'll find the fishing symbol, indicating parks — including marine parks — open for recreational fishing. You need to carry a NSW fishing licence, contact Industry & Investment NSW on 1300 550 474, [www.licence.nsw.gov.au](http://www.licence.nsw.gov.au) or local fishing shops to apply.

### VISIT A LIGHTHOUSE

Mysterious and isolated, NSW's historic lighthouses are regional icons, perched on rugged headlands often surrounded by spectacular national parks. Many welcome visitors, some are still functioning and several offer tours and accommodation.



GREAT

# THINGS TO DO

IN YOUR NATIONAL PARKS

### TAKE THE FAMILY

Even in Sydney, you don't have to go far to find a family-friendly national park. A place for swimming, picnicking, camping ... walking with the kids under a canopy of trees with a challenge to spot the greatest number of birds, a shy wallaby or echidna.

Try Nielsen Park in Sydney Harbour National Park for spectacular views, the historic Royal National Park down south, or Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park for camping at The Basin.

Further afield, just check the guide to find the best picnic spots, swimming, fishing and bushwalking options for the whole family.

### GET MOVING

From easy, flat cruises to more challenging mountain trails, you'll find a wealth of cycling experiences on national park roads, fire trails and designated tracks. Many national parks also provide opportunities for vehicle touring, both for conventional cars and 4-wheel drives. Check with the local park office before you head out.

You can ride horses in many national parks on most public roads open to motor vehicles. Check with the local park office or on the web for trails in your area. For a real horse riding adventure, head to the high country of Kosciuszko National Park, where there are trails with camping areas where horses can be kept.

### TRACK DOWN A WATERFALL

If you're looking for the natural calm only a waterfall can offer, you'll find them in the Blue Mountains, just outside Sydney; or head south for the Minnamurra and Fitzroy falls. Perhaps the best of all,

follow the Waterfall Way across Oxley Wild Rivers, New England, Cascade and Dorrigo national parks. Along the Way you can look out over many of the state's finest falls including the massive Wollomombi Falls, particularly spectacular after heavy rain.

### GO FOR A GREAT WALK

Whether you're out for a short nature stroll or a five-day hike, walking tracks provide all kinds of opportunities to explore the parks and reserves of NSW. Discover a range of different environments, from eucalypt forests to heathlands or rainforests to mallee. And take in a diversity of sites and activities on the way, from lookouts and swimming to wildflowers, Aboriginal sites and more.

### DISCOVER HISTORY AND CULTURE

Along with protection of native plants and animals, many parks and reserves preserve Aboriginal cultural landscapes and NSW's post settlement history.

Cultural and spiritual ties to the landscape remain strong for today's Aboriginal people and work is being done to conserve places of significance. You can join an Aboriginal *Discovery* ranger on a walk, talk or tour to learn more about Aboriginal culture in a number of parks.

You can also visit historic European settlement sites throughout the state, such as the convict-built Old Great North Road or the 1860s gold rush town of Hill End.

So choose your experience — and remember, local park offices are a great place to get advice and information.



## Explore our World Heritage

World Heritage sites are places of such outstanding universal value that their conservation is important for current and future generations. They represent the best examples of the world's natural and cultural heritage.

In NSW, there are four World Heritage Areas — stretching up the east coast, the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia preserve ancient remnant rainforests and their extraordinary ecosystems, while in the far west the Willandra Lakes Region, incorporating Mungo National Park, protects one of the longest continual records of Aboriginal life in Australia.

On Sydney's doorstep, the Greater Blue Mountains Area covers more than a million hectares of World Heritage-listed eucalypt forests and natural biodiversity. Off the coast, the Lord Howe Island Group forms a natural paradise of spectacular scenery and unique flora and fauna.

For more information on Australia's World Heritage, visit [www.environment.gov.au/heritage/about/world/](http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/about/world/)

LEFT: Wollemi National Park.  
Photo: I. Brown/DECCW

**GREAT**

# PLACES TO STAY

IN YOUR NATIONAL PARKS



**NSW National Parks  
and Wildlife Service**

From woolsheds to waterfronts, beaches to bush retreats — there's spectacular, quirky, luxurious and rustic accommodation available in national parks throughout the state.

More options than you've ever imagined. You don't have to rough it — unless you want to.

Accommodation options include:

## BEACH STAYS

Cottages and cabins on some of the state's most spectacular, unspoiled beaches ... they're some of our best-kept secrets. Whether it's Partridge Cottage at Byron Bay on the north coast, or the cabins at Depot and Pretty beaches to the south, that's relaxation!

## CAVES

We don't think you're batty enough to want to stay *in* the caves, but just a stone's throw from the cave systems of Yarrangobilly, Abercrombie, Wombeyan and Jenolan there's accommodation ranging from guesthouses to cosy self contained cabins and dormitories.

## HARBOUR VIEWS

Consistently rated one of the world's top attractions, Sydney Harbour can be yours, at least for a night or two, at harbourside cottages at Watsons Bay and Nielsen Park. Contemporary

accommodation overlooking the harbour is also offered at Q Station on the north side of Sydney Harbour.

## CAMPING

The mainstay of national park accommodation — camping. It ranges from the hardy soul who hefts a pack and sets off into the wilderness to pitch tent in a remote clearing ... through to those who like the creature comforts of a campsite with modern facilities. There are options to suit everyone

## BUSH RETREATS

Get away from it all in a tranquil bush retreat. Enjoy isolated ambience miles from anywhere or be as close as 10 km from the heart of Sydney, at Lane Cove River Tourist Park.

Have easy access to bushwalks, picnic areas and photo opportunities, then return to comfortable, ensuite accommodation, ready to begin exploring again first thing tomorrow.

## HISTORIC HOMESTEADS

Here's a great option if you want to spend a bit of time on activities such as bird and wildlife watching, fishing, day walks and mountain biking. Experience life on the land in homesteads such as East Kunderang in the New England Tablelands, or Mount Wood in the state's far west.

## LIGHTHOUSE COTTAGES

From the iconic Cape Byron Lighthouse in the north to Green Cape Lightstation in the south, experience a stay in a heritage lighthouse keeper's cottage.

The cottages are in spectacular locations perfect for seeing dolphins, seabirds and breaching whales. Watch the sun rise above the ocean as you relive the romance of the lighthouse keeper's life.

## WATERFRONT

Find tranquillity and seclusion on the shores of Myall Lakes at Cutlers Cottage. Enjoy the greatest of views, surrounded by nature — and, of course, the chance to cast a line and catch dinner.

## WESTERN WOOLSHEDS

Outback shearers' quarters provide basic, bunk style accommodation — it's communal living, cooking and eating together. Sites such as Mungo and Kinchega make excellent bases for exploring fascinating Outback NSW, great for families and groups.

## MAKE YOUR CHOICE

If you're heading to the highlands, there's accommodation to suit every budget in the towns of Kosciuszko National Park, while eco-friendly resort stays await in the national parks of Myall Lakes and Murrumbidgee ... so many choices, there really is something for everyone.

This guide includes more than a dozen profiled accommodation options, in addition to those listed in the park entries. Check the guide, look for the accommodation icon in the park entries and visit our website at [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

## Rainforest Hideaways

New England National Park — you'll never tire of its diversity, a landscape of cliffs, creeks, mists and occasional snowfalls. And World Heritage rainforests.

There are three rainforest retreats in the park, catering for families and groups, giving a unique chance to linger in this misty, lush environment and experience its many moods.



RIGHT: New England National Park.  
Photo: courtesy Tourism NSW



## 14 Cattai

NATIONAL PARK 424 ha



**Camping fee level** 3

**Highlights** The Cattai Farm area, originally a land grant to First Fleet assistant surgeon Thomas Arndell, features Arndell's 1821 cottage, historic grain silos and ruins of a windmill believed to be the oldest industrial building in NSW. In a separate section, nearby Mitchell Park features a variety of plant communities, including rare riverine rainforest.

**Activities** Cattai Farm has grassy picnic areas, barbecues and shelter sheds beside the Hawkesbury River, and car-based camping is available year round (bookings essential). Mitchell Park has an extensive network of walking tracks, and there are picnic areas with barbecues beside scenic Cattai Creek.

**Access** 55 km north-west of Sydney, 13 km north of Windsor off the Cattai–Wisemans Ferry road. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Scheyville, phone 4572 3100**

## 15 Dalrymple-Hay

NATURE RESERVE 11 ha



**Highlights** The reserve's stand of blue gum high forest is one of the last remaining of this type in Sydney. Walk through the largest stand of this endangered ecological community, listed under the Threatened Species Conservation Act.

**Activities** Escape from the busy rush of Sydney life with a walk among the majestic tall blue gums and blackbutts. Check out the large hollows in the tree trunks as they burst with colours of beautiful native birds, such as king parrots, rosellas and lorikeets.

**Access** Located in the suburb of St Ives, 15 km north of the Sydney CBD. Enter via Mona Vale Road, Rosedale Road or Vista Street.

**Lane Cove, phone 8448 0400**

## 16 Dharawal

STATE CONSERVATION AREA  
AND NATURE RESERVE 6265 ha



**Highlights** The Woronora Plateau, west of the Illawarra Escarpment, supports a complex and diverse range of threatened species and vegetation communities, including upland swamps, shale forests and western gully forests (which are prime koala habitat).

**Activities** Enjoy bushwalking or mountain biking along the extensive network of management trails (bike riding in Dharawal SCA only). Picturesque creek crossings provide opportunities for a photo or a dip.

**Access** 45 km south-west of Sydney via the Princes Highway. Entry is from Darkes Forest Road or the Bulli–Appin road.

**Wollongong, phone 4223 3000**

## 17 Dharug

NATIONAL PARK 14,850 ha



**Camping fee levels** 1 4

**Highlights** The multi-hued sandstone landscape forms part of Sydney's green belt and protects vital clear-water tributaries to the Hawkesbury River.

**Activities** Try the 1.6-km Grass Tree Circuit or stroll a section of the convict-built Great North Road, one of the great construction feats of the early colony and recognised as a National Engineering Landmark. Picnic at Mill Creek or Hazel Dell. Discovery walks,

talks and tours are available year round. The park is also good for mountain biking (bikes must be walked up Devines Hill); phone the Gosford office for details. Car-based and trailer camping is available at Mill Creek — tank water only (fees apply and bookings are required — phone 4320 4203) and backpack camping at Ten Mile Hollow.

**Access** 40 km north-east of Windsor. Mill Creek is 5.5 km east of Wisemans Ferry along Wisemans Ferry Road.

**Gosford, phone 4320 4200**

## 18 Garawarra

STATE CONSERVATION AREA 949 ha



**Highlights** Echidnas and lyrebirds make their homes among the rainforest patches and colourful heaths bordering Royal National Park. Garawarra SCA has now been placed on the National Heritage List.

**Activities** Enjoy a picnic among magnificent trees and springtime wildflowers or view the waterfall from various lookouts at the Kelly's Falls section of the reserve adjacent to Stanwell Tops.

**Access** 3 km south of Waterfall. Access the Kelly's Falls section of the reserve via Lawrence Hargraves Drive at Stanwell Tops. You can also walk from Waterfall or Helensburgh railway stations.

**Audley, phone 9542 0648**



RIGHT: Enjoy the cool and shady pools of Dharawal SCA.  
Photo: H.Jessup/DECCW

## 19 Gardens of Stone

NATIONAL PARK 15,130 ha



**Highlights** This park, part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, features famous 'pagoda' rock formations that cluster near sandstone escarpments where erosion has sculpted beehive-shaped domes and other forms. Banksias, dwarf casuarinas and other wind-pruned heathland plants give the area its garden-like appearance.

**Activities** There are no established walking tracks but you'll find plenty of scope for hard bushwalks. Baal Bone Gap has basic picnic facilities (4WD necessary). Backpack camping more than 200 metres from roads is permitted in most areas of the park, though camping is not permitted in caves or within 200 metres of limestone, and only fuel stoves are permitted. There are no designated camping areas, but you can camp outside the park at Capertee or Glen Davis, or at Newnes in Wollemi National Park.

**Access** 160–175 km north-west of Sydney, 30 km north of Lithgow off the Mudgee Road via unsealed roads from Lidsdale to the south (4WD) or via Capertee to the north.

**Blackheath, phone 4787 8877**

## 20 Garigal

NATIONAL PARK 2203 ha



**Highlights** An impressive expanse of bush and sandstone country close to the heart of Sydney, with great water views.

**Activities** Davidson picnic area on Middle Harbour is a popular spot for boating and fishing. Picnic facilities include barbecues and toilets. For bookings of 'Area 2' picnic facilities contact Forestville office on 9451 3479. Bushwalkers can enjoy the scenery from an extensive walking track system. Camping is not permitted in the park.

**Access** 12 km north of Sydney CBD.

Entry to Davidson picnic area is from the city-bound left lane of Warringah Road, before the Roseville Bridge. Vehicle entry fee of \$7 applies to Davidson picnic area and boat ramp.

**Sydney North Information Centre, phone 9472 8949**

## 21 Georges River

NATIONAL PARK 337 ha



**Highlights** Steep forested hillsides, plateaus and riverside flats conserve some of Sydney's best river habitat for native plants and animals.

**Activities** There are several popular riverside picnic areas, large and small, and a network of walking tracks. Stroll around peaceful Yeramba Lagoon, home to more than 100 bird species, or the Ridge Track, which offers spectacular river views.

**Access** 25 km south-west of Sydney along Henry Lawson Drive. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day. Open only during daylight hours.

**Kurnell, phone 9668 2000**

## Hartley

HISTORIC SITE SHOP

**Farmers Inn, Great Western Highway, Hartley, phone 6355 2117**

Based in one of Hartley's historic buildings, the shop stocks a range of heritage-style books, oil lamps, candlesticks, souvenirs and pens, as well as sweets and drinks. Open 7 days, 10 am to 4.30 pm (closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day).

BELOW: Take a kayak and explore Garigal National Park's Middle Harbour beaches. Photo: M.Cufer/DECCW

## 22 Hartley

HISTORIC SITE 13 ha



**Highlights** This well-preserved 19th-century village sits on the western edge of the Blue Mountains. The famous sandstone courthouse was built in the 1830s and was in operation for over 50 years. Absconding convicts, petty thieves, highway robbers, and the drunk and disorderly all came before the Hartley magistracy.

**Activities** Stroll around the village or join a tour of the courthouse (tour fee applies). Visit the heritage shop and information centre for full details on what's available.

**Access** 120 km west of Sydney, 12 km south of Lithgow on the Great Western Highway. Open every day between 10 am and 4.30 pm.

**Hartley, phone 6355 2117**

## 23 Heathcote

NATIONAL PARK 2672 ha



**Camping fee level 2**

**Highlights** The wild, rugged landscape is perfect for walkers and easily accessible from Sydney. In spring, gymea lilies give a scarlet glow to the gullies.

**Activities** Take one of the series of walking tracks through the beauty and diversity of the park's rocky bushland, stopping for a swim in a hidden pool along Heathcote Creek gorge. Backpack camping is permitted at limited sites (permits and bookings essential; phone 9542 0683 between 10.30 am and 1.30 pm Monday to Friday).

**Access** 35 km south of Sydney. There's no car access but you can walk in from Heathcote or Waterfall on the Illawarra train line.

**Audley, phone 9542 0648**





The centre in historic Bobbin Inn stocks books, maps, gifts, souvenirs, cards, posters and other products. Call or drop in for information on parks and reserves in northern Sydney. Open 7 days, 10 am to 4 pm (extended in peak times; closed Christmas Day).

## DISCOVERY CENTRE



This wheelchair accessible walk and lookout with an array of wildlife is located 3km from Bobbin Head. The centre is staffed by Chase Alive Volunteers, who can assist you with the walks, talks and tours available across Sydney North Region. Open 7 days, 9 am to 5 pm (closed Christmas Day).

KU-RING-GAI CHASE  
NATIONAL PARK



Camping fee level 4

The only camping area (bookings to camp essential) within the park, The Basin is a jewel in the heart of a big city. It's situated on the foreshores of Pittwater in a secluded bay where friends and family can gather for a day picnic or camp overnight. The Basin has safe and sheltered swimming spots and bushland right on its doorstep.

## KARST CONSERVATION RESERVE



Today Jenolan is one of the most popular tourist destinations in country NSW, with visitors enjoying the wonders of nine Show Caves and an ever-increasing number entering the world of adventure caving. Jenolan Caves House provides accommodation for those who enjoy comfort. Meals can be enjoyed at either Trails Bistro or Chisholm's Dining Room. Cottages are located approximately 8 km from the caves and are ideal for families.

**Activities** Take a guided cave tour, stroll along a choice of scenic bush tracks (from easy to strenuous) or picnic at the Blue Lake. There are not many other places where on almost any day you can spot a shy platypus. Hiking, swimming and wildlife spotting are some of the activities you can enjoy in the area.

**Access** From Sydney, take the M4 Motorway travelling west through the Blue Mountains, Katoomba and Mt. Victoria on the Great Western Highway. Shortly after Victoria Pass, the Jenolan Caves turnoff is found just past the village of Hartley. Turning left, this road passes through Hampton and then to Jenolan Caves.

**Jenolan Caves, phone 6359 3911**  
**[www.jenolancaves.org.au](http://www.jenolancaves.org.au)**

BELOW: Just a 10-minute walk from the Kanangra Walls carpark offers views of the majestic wilderness of Kanangra-Boyd National Park. Photo: C. Jones, courtesy Tourism NSW.

**NATIONAL PARK** 68.661 ha



**Highlights** This park is part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Vast gorges, high lookouts and wild and scenic rivers lend Kanangra-Boyd's wilderness a rugged and dramatic grandeur. Thurat Spires, Kanangra Walls and Mt Cloudmaker provide sandstone scenery on a majestic scale.

**Activities** For experienced bushwalkers there are plenty of opportunities for extended walks and backpack camping. Most of the park is declared wilderness, so group sizes and activities are restricted. Wildlife abounds at Boyd Crossing, where car-based camping is available. A pleasant 10-minute walk from Kanangra Walls carpark takes you to a lookout over the park. The carpark toilets, lookout and Boyd River camping area are all wheelchair-accessible.

**Access** 180 km west of Sydney near Jenolan Caves on Kanangra Road (unsealed but suitable for 2WD). Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Oberon, phone 6336 1972**  
**Blackheath, phone 4787 8877**

**NATIONAL PARK** 14,928 ha



Camping fee level  4

**Highlights** Ku-ring-gai Chase offers a rich variety of things to see and do in a natural setting adjacent to Sydney's northern suburbs. West Head, in the park's north-east, has some of Sydney's best water views, while Bobbin Head, on the western side, is well known for its waterways, picnic areas and walking tracks. Ku-ring-gai Chase NP has now been placed on the National Heritage List.

**Activities** Walking tracks reveal rugged scenery, quiet beaches and a wealth of wildflowers and birdlife. There are several picnic areas, some providing gas and electric barbecues, but no open fires are permitted within the park. Larger picnic shelters at Bobbin Head can be booked through the Sydney North Region Information



Centre. You can see Aboriginal rock art on The Basin and Red Hand tracks. Chase Alive volunteers conduct guided walks (phone 9472 9300). Camping is permitted only at The Basin; camping fees apply and bookings are essential (phone 9974 1011). Access is via water taxi or ferry from Palm Beach; landing fees apply. There are marinas with cafes at Bobbin Head and Akuna Bay, and boat ramps at Appletree Bay and Akuna Bay. Historic Barrenjoey Lighthouse at Palm Beach offers stunning views of Broken Bay and the coast (access by uphill walking track; no facilities (toilets or drinking water) at lighthouse site; for lighthouse tours phone 9472 9300).

**Access** 26 km north of the Sydney CBD. Access to the western side is from Bobbin Head Road via the Pacific Highway (from the south), or from Kuring-gai Chase Road via the F3 Freeway (from the north). Access to the eastern side (West Head) is via Mona Vale Road. Vehicle entry fee \$11 per day.

**Sydney North Region Information Centre, phone 9472 8949**

## 27 Lake Macquarie

STATE CONSERVATION AREA 667 ha



**Camping fee level** 3

**Highlights** This coastal and lake-shore forest area, spread over 16 km of foreshore in six sections around Lake Macquarie, forms an important habitat for kangaroos, wallabies, gliders and many birds.

**Activities** There are opportunities for picnicking, bushwalking, fishing and boating. Wangi Wangi Point and Awaba Bay have established walking track networks, picnic areas and fishing spots. Many areas are great for birdwatching. Point Wolstoncroft (run by the Department of Sport and Recreation, phone 1800 819 244) has facilities and accommodation for a minimum of two nights. Tent and caravan camping, onsite cabins and powered caravan sites are available at Wangi Point Holiday Park (fees apply and bookings are essential, phone 4975 1889).

**Access** 115 km north-east of Sydney, 50 km north-east of Gosford. Wangi Wangi Point is accessed via Watkins Road, Awaba Bay is off The Ridgeway at Bolton Point, and Point Wolstoncroft is at the end of Kanangra Drive off the Pacific Highway.

**Lakes Area (Lake Munmorah), phone 4972 9000**

## 28 Lane Cove

NATIONAL PARK 670 ha



**Camping fee level** — special fees

**Highlights** The picturesque Lane Cove River winds through a peaceful bushland valley within easy reach of the city centre, extending from East Ryde to Wahroonga/Pennant Hills.

**Activities** These vary from picnicking, boating and mountain-bike riding, to walking through bushland and along river foreshores. Thirty-five picnic sites are available most with wood, gas or electric barbecues (bookings required for large groups, phone 9888 9133). Cabins and camping facilities are available at the Lane Cove River Tourist Park: phone 9888 9133. Rowboats are for hire (swimming not advisable).

**Access** 10 km north-west of Sydney CBD. Enter from Lane Cove Road, Delhi Road or Lady Game Drive. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day. The 545 bus service operates regularly from Chatswood Station.

**Lane Cove, phone 8448 0400**  
**Sydney North Information Centre, phone 9472 8949**

## 29 Leacock

REGIONAL PARK 34 ha



**Highlights** Leacock Regional Park provides a welcome area of open space in Sydney's south-west. From the ridgeline there are views over the Holsworthy bushland.

**Activities** Walking trails and cycle tracks link the park with other facilities such as Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre. There's a lookout platform and picnic tables. As it's a regional park you can walk your dog on a leash.

**Access** 45 km west of Sydney CBD, 5 km south of Liverpool via Leacock Lane off the Hume Highway at Casula.

**Parramatta, phone 9895 7420**

## ACCOMMODATION

### Lane Cove River Tourist Park

This is a truly exceptional place — a eucalypt forest abounding with native birds and animals, just 10 km from the heart of Sydney.

By staying in a cabin or campsite you help enhance this unique, precious environment. Every dollar spent goes directly to ongoing conservation and education projects, and it's the only tourist park in Australia to gain advanced ecotourism accreditation.

The national park is right on your doorstep, offering wonderful opportunities for walking, fishing, canoeing, photography or just admiring the wildlife, day and night.

The park provides habitat for fascinating native creatures such as possums, echidnas, blue-tongue lizards, rosellas and tawny frog mouth owls. Unique Australian native plants such as banksias and flannel flowers are also protected within the park.

**For more information and bookings**

**Phone:** 1300 729 133 or 02 9888 9133

**Fax:** +61 2 9888 9322.

**Email:**  
lccp@environment.nsw.gov.au



Lane Cove River Tourist Park.  
Photo: DECCW





## 30 Long Reef

AQUATIC RESERVE APPROX 60 ha



**Highlights** This unique rock platform is located on Sydney's Northern Beaches. It includes two main rocky shores and has a wide variety of habitats, including sheltered boulder fields and surf-exposed ledges. The diversity and abundance of marine invertebrates, and some species of plants found here are rarely seen anywhere else. A number of migratory birds visit the reserve. The reserve is of great educational importance and is regularly used by school groups, university students and marine researchers.

**Activities** 'The Cathedral' is a popular site for scuba diving. With the exception of fishing for fin-fish (bring your own bait), you cannot collect or disturb any other marine plant or animal. It is prohibited to collect cunjevoi, commonly used as bait, and all invertebrates (dead or alive), including anemones, barnacles, chitons, cockles, crabs, mussels, octopus, pipis, sea urchins, starfish, snails and worms, and empty shells. It is also prohibited to collect all types of baitweed. Recreational fishing competitions within the reserve require a permit.

**Access** Drive along Anzac Avenue, Collaroy, to its eastern end at Long Reef Golf Course. You can walk to the reserve from Long Reef Surf Club or along Collaroy Beach.

**Port Stephens, phone 4916 3826**

## 31 Marramarra

NATIONAL PARK 11,786 ha



**Camping fee level** 1

**Highlights** A peaceful stretch of bushland overlooking the Hawkesbury River and Berowra Creek. There are excellent examples of mangrove forest at Big Bay, Pumpkin Point and Gentlemans Halt.

**Activities** Follow one of the many walking tracks, or go canoeing on Marramarra Creek or one of the little-known waterways and take a close look at local wildlife. There's bush camping at Gentlemans Halt (access only via water or 10-km walk) and Marramarra Creek orchards (via water or 4-km walk).

**Access** 50 km north of Sydney. Enter via Arcadia Road, Bloodwood Road or Old Northern Road.

**Sydney North Information Centre, phone 9472 8949**

## 32 Munmorah

STATE CONSERVATION AREA 1515 ha



**Camping fee level** 4

**Highlights** 12 km of rugged coastline makes a fine site for water sports, coastal walks with magnificent ocean views and wildflower displays in spring.

**Activities** Launch a boat from the ramp at Elizabeth Bay or swim and surf at a variety of beaches (surf beaches are not patrolled, except Frazer Beach which is patrolled during Christmas and Easter holidays). Car-based camping is available at Frazer camping area (gas barbecues, accessible toilets) and car-based and limited caravan camping at Freemans camping area (gas barbecues); bookings essential. Only gas barbecues may be used in the park.

**Access** 115 km north-east of Sydney, 41 km north of Gosford via Elizabeth Bay Drive off the Pacific Highway. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Lakes Area (Lake Munmorah), phone 4972 9000**



## 33 Narrabeen Head

AQUATIC RESERVE Approx. 5 ha



**Highlights** The reserve includes the whole foreshore from the south end of Turimetta Beach to the rock baths at Narrabeen Head, and extends 100 m seaward from the mean low water mark. The reserve is of great educational importance and is regularly used by school groups, particularly kindergarten and primary school children. It is complemented by its close proximity to the Long Reef Aquatic Reserve and Narrabeen Lagoon.

**Activities** People can line fish and spearfish (subject to normal restrictions) and collect rock lobster, sea lettuce and baitweed only.

It is prohibited to collect cunjevoi, commonly used as bait, and all invertebrates (dead or alive), including anemones, barnacles, chitons, cockles, crabs, mussels, octopus, pipis, sea urchins, starfish, snails and worms, and empty shells. Recreational fishing competitions within the reserve require a permit.

**Access** Turn into Narrabeen Park Parade from Pittwater Road via Arnott Street. Parking can be found in Peal Place Narrabeen (off Narrabeen Park Parade).

**Port Stephens, phone 4916 3826**

## 34 Nattai

NATIONAL PARK 48,944 ha



**Camping fee level 1**

**Highlights** The Warragamba Dam catchment, within the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, protects Sydney's water supply, and its wilderness bushland is ideal for experienced bushwalkers.

**Activities** Minimum-impact bushwalking and backpack camping are permitted, except in the 3-km zone around Lake Burragorang. Wilderness walks require a topographic map and compass, and all walkers need to be experienced and well-equipped. Phone for advice and further information on available walks, camping and the Nattai reserves.

**Access** 100 km south-west of Sydney, 30 km south-west of Camden off Wattle Ridge Road or Wombeyan Caves Road.

**Picton, phone 4677 0859**

LEFT: Munmorah State Conservation Area is just one of the beachside parks scattered along the central coast.  
Photo: K. Gillett/DECCW

## TREAD SOFTLY

National parks are special areas and it's up to all of us to treat them with care — whether bushwalking, camping, or vehicle touring. Here's how to keep your impact to a minimum.

### When walking

- ▶ Stay on the track. Walking on track edges and cutting corners on zigzagging tracks increases erosion and visual scarring.
- ▶ Avoid walking on sensitive vegetation by staying on rocks and hard ground wherever possible.
- ▶ Tread softly, wearing running shoes or lightweight walking boots.

### When camping

- ▶ Use designated fireplaces in camping areas and observe fire bans. Off the beaten track, use a fuel stove rather than wood (dead wood provides habitat for native animals).
- ▶ Use rubbish bins or, better still, take rubbish with you when you leave. Don't bury it as animals dig it up.
- ▶ If you must use detergents, toothpaste or soap, stay at least 50 metres from waterways. In areas without toilets, dig a hole 15 cm deep at least 100 metres from waterways to bury human waste.
- ▶ Don't feed native animals — it can damage their health and make them dependent on camping areas for food.
- ▶ Wherever possible leave everything as you find it.
- ▶ Leave pets, firearms, spearguns, generators and chainsaws at home.

For more details on camping see page 2, and for more information on minimising impact when walking or camping visit our website.

### When vehicle touring

- ▶ Keep your vehicle in good working order — for safety and to prevent oil and fuel spills.
- ▶ Use designated park entrances so you don't disturb park neighbours. Also check that there are no weeds caught in your tyres or under your car.
- ▶ Follow existing routes and tracks. Avoid driving on the edges so you don't widen them, but be alert for oncoming traffic.
- ▶ Avoid dazzling wildlife with high beam, spotlights or powerful driving lights.
- ▶ Ford creeks only at designated crossings, and approach at 90° to avoid damaging the banks.
- ▶ If you're with a group, keep the number of vehicles to a minimum.

**A note about rubbish:** In line with the NSW Government commitment to reducing the amount of rubbish going to landfill, new waste and recycling facilities have been installed in several reserves. Many reserves no longer have rubbish facilities, and visitors are asked to take their rubbish and sort recyclables at home for disposal.





## 35 North (Sydney) Harbour

AQUATIC RESERVE Approx. 260 ha



**Highlights** The boundaries of the reserve are formed by a line between the headlands at North Head and Grotto Point, and a line joining Little Manly Point, Manly Point, and Forty Baskets Beach. The intertidal rock pools provide homes for many invertebrates. Sheltered bays and inlets provide seagrass and algal habitats for seahorses and sea dragons. In summer, tropical fish are a common sight, carried from the Great Barrier Reef by the East Australian Current.

**Activities** Within the reserve you can enjoy all forms of passive activity and recreation. You can also line fish but only for fish that have fins. Note that the collection or disturbance of marine life or habitat is prohibited, including collecting shellfish, pumping for worms, spearfishing and collecting dead or empty shells.

Recreational fishing competitions within the reserve require a permit.

**Access** From the foreshore of North Sydney Harbour.

**Port Stephens, phone 4916 3826**

## 36 Parr

STATE CONSERVATION AREA 38,121 ha



**Camping fee level** 1

**Highlights** A rugged and little-known area of steep gorges, cliffs and rock outcrops.

**Activities** Join one of the Discovery walks, talks or tours (including 4WD tours) that are conducted throughout the park (phone 4320 4205 for details). Backpack camping is available at Heartbreak Hill, 18 km from the eastern end of the park (phone Gosford 4320 4200 for details).

**Access** 35 km north of Windsor via Putty Road at Colo Heights, 8 km west of Wisemans Ferry (take the Webbs Creek ferry at Wisemans Ferry).

**Gosford, phone 4320 4200**

## 37 Popran

NATIONAL PARK 3970 ha



**Highlights** Aboriginal sites are dotted throughout the spectacular sandstone cliff-lines and gullies. The views from Mt Olive and the 248 Track (accessible from Wisemans Ferry Road) are spectacular. Emerald Pool is just one of the pristine small creek catchments within the park.

**Activities** You can go bushwalking or mountain biking, or wander through the exceptional wildflower displays. Camping is not permitted in the park.

**Access** 65 km north of Sydney, 25 km west of Gosford north of the Hawkesbury River. Easy access from the F3 Sydney—Newcastle Freeway exiting at Mt White or Calga. Vehicle access

to Ironbark day-use area is via Ironbark Road, Mangrove Mountain.

**Gosford, phone 4320 4200**

## 38 Rouse Hill

REGIONAL PARK 43 ha



**Highlights** In recent years the landscape surrounding historic Rouse Hill House, built between 1813 and 1818, has been gradually transformed from paddock to parkland, designed around existing features such as Second Ponds Creek, farm dams and remnant woodland.

**Activities** Cycling, walking and inline skating tracks explore the park, and there's adventure play equipment for toddlers and teenagers. You can have a picnic or barbecue, and the two Iron Bark Ridge Pavilions can be hired for functions. You can walk your dog on a leash.

**Access** 45 km north-west of the Sydney CBD, 10 km north of Blacktown on Worcester Road off Windsor Road.

**Scheyville, phone 4572 3100**

## 39 Royal

NATIONAL PARK 15,300 ha



**Camping fee levels** 2 4

**Highlights** This historic national park — the first in Australia (and second in the world, after Yellowstone in the USA) — has now been placed on the National Heritage List and is easily accessible from Sydney. Walk the coast for

BELOW: Looking down over Garie Beach from Governor Game Lookout in Royal National Park. Photo: H.Lund, courtesy Tourism NSW



magnificent views or explore a variety of habitats, including heath, rainforest, open wetlands and estuaries.

**Activities** Over 100 kilometres of walking tracks give access to the park. The 26-km Coast Track has magnificent cliff-top views, or you can take the Forest Island loop walk through cool, rainforested valleys. Wattamolla, Garie and Burning Palms are among the most beautiful beaches in Australia. Enjoy a picnic in one of many peaceful, shady areas or hire a rowboat at historic Audley and take a paddle up Kangaroo Creek.

The kiosk and picnic pavilion at Audley and the visitor centre are wheelchair-accessible, as are the toilets nearby. The Bungoon Track, close to the Regional office, is a 500-metre concrete path with a wheelchair-accessible lookout. Discovery walks, talks and tours are available year round. Join an Aboriginal Discovery ranger for an educational insight into the land — phone 9542 0629 for Discovery information and bookings.

Car-based and caravan camping (no power) with facilities available at Bonnie Vale (bookings essential); backpack camping is permitted at limited sites (permits and bookings essential: phone 9542 0683 between 10.30am and 1.30pm Monday to Friday). Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

**Access** 32 km south of Sydney CBD via Princes Highway. Take the Illawarra train line, stopping at Loftus, Engadine, Heathcote, Waterfall or Otford. Access the north-eastern area of the park via the Cronulla line to Cronulla and then ferry to Bundeena (phone 9523 2990 for timetable). Vehicle entry fee \$ 11 per day.

**Audley, phone 9542 0648**

## 40 Scheyville

NATIONAL PARK 920 ha



**Highlights** Evidence of the area's rich history of European occupation can still be seen in the relics of agriculture, military training and immigration. The surrounding Cumberland Plain woodland ecosystems once covered much of what is now western Sydney, but are now threatened, mainly by urban expansion.

**Activities** Walk the history trail and imagine what life was like in the years of the Casual Labour Farm, Agricultural Training Farm, migrant hostel or military occupation. The walking track around Longneck Lagoon provides excellent birdwatching opportunities. Picnic facilities and information are available at the Scheyville office. Horse riding is permitted in one designated area. Access gates are located on Scheyville Road and Old Pitt Town Road.

**Access** 45 km north-west of Sydney, 6 km east of Windsor on Windsor Road via Boundary Road and Old Pitt Town Road (from Parramatta), or on Pitt Town Road and Saunders Road (from Windsor).

**Scheyville, phone 4572 3100**

## 41 Shiprock

AQUATIC RESERVE Approx. 2 ha



**Highlights** The reserve was named after a prominent ship-like rock which forms the headland between Burraneer and Dolans Bay at Port Hacking. A combination of submarine cliffs, strong currents and oceanic waters provide a diverse environment inhabited by plants, invertebrates and fish. More than 130 species of fish have been recorded within the aquatic reserve.

**Activities** You can enjoy all forms of passive activity and recreation. Observe the marine plants and animals with care. Fishing by any method is prohibited in the area. It is prohibited to collect cunjevoi, commonly used as bait, any baitweed species and all invertebrates (dead or alive), including anemones, barnacles, chitons, cockles, crabs, mussels, octopus, pipis, sea urchins, starfish, snails and worms, and empty shells throughout the reserve.

**Access** Through the Crown Reserve located on Wallendbeen Avenue, Dolans Bay (off Port Hacking Road South). Alternative access is by boat, with the nearest boat ramp located at Wallys Wharf, at the end of Port Hacking South Road.

**Port Stephens, phone 4916 3826**

## ACCOMMODATION

### Q Station Retreat

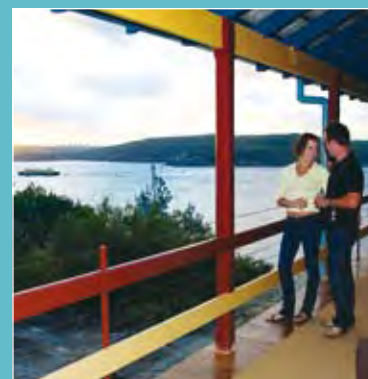
Explore, tour, dine, stay. Be inspired. Escape for a day or stay for a few nights.

The former North Head Quarantine Station, established in the 1800s, is now a place to stay, relax and enjoy the magic of Sydney Harbour and the wonders of the Australian bush.

Just five minutes from Manly, this historic retreat is not your average Sydney Hotel — set in the heart of Sydney Harbour National Park on a 35 hectare site, Q Station Retreat offers 72 beautifully restored heritage accommodation rooms, the industrially themed Boilerhouse Restaurant next to Quarantine Beach, an amazing theatre show called Defiance, and many interactive day and night tours, including the long running Ghost Tour.

On weekends arrive and depart on a water shuttle from Darling Harbour. Take the opportunity to swim, snorkel, kayak and bushwalk, relax with a massage on the beach, or head into Manly, just minutes away for entertainment, beaches and nightlife.

**For more information and bookings**  
**Phone: 02 9466 1500**  
**[www.qstation.com.au](http://www.qstation.com.au)**



Q Station Retreat.  
Photo: Q Station





## 42 Sydney Harbour

NATIONAL PARK 393 ha



**Highlights** Sections of park scattered around Sydney Harbour offer views of the majestic harbour entrance, natural bushland, secluded sandy beaches, harbour islands and rugged sandstone cliffs — all with the contrast of cosmopolitan Sydney in the background.

**Activities** Swim and picnic at Nielsen Park (shark-netted during summer), walk the Hermitage Foreshore Track, Manly Scenic Walkway or Harbour Bridge to Spit walk, taking in Bradleys and Middle heads, or visit North or South head for astonishing views. Take a tour of the harbour islands, such as historic Fort Denison (bookings essential). You can also enjoy a picnic on Shark, Clark and Rodd islands (landing fees apply). All island visits and all tours must be booked and paid for in advance.

**Access** The park is in several sections surrounding Sydney Harbour, most of which are accessible by car and public transport (phone 131 500 or visit [www.131500.com.au](http://www.131500.com.au)). For bookings, directions and further details phone or visit the Sydney Harbour National Park Information Centre. Vehicle entry fee applies at most locations.

**Information Centre, phone 9247 5033**

### Sydney Harbour National Park

INFORMATION CENTRE



#### Cadmans Cottage

**110 George Street, The Rocks, Sydney, phone 9247 5033**

This information centre (located in Cadmans Cottage, see page 42) provides information about Sydney Harbour national park islands and foreshores, including Goat Island, Fort Denison, Middle Head and Bradleys Head, as well as Bare Island Fort and Lapérouse Museum in the northern section of Botany Bay National Park. The centre also provides information on facilities available in the parks and reserves to the west of the city centre. Open 9.30 am to 4.30 pm Monday to Friday, and 10.00 am to 4.30 pm Saturday and Sunday. Closed Christmas Day, Good Friday and New Year's Day.

## 43 Thirlmere Lakes

NATIONAL PARK 630 ha



**Highlights** This park is part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Its five reed-fringed freshwater lakes, abundant with waterbirds and surrounded by quiet patches of forest, are among the last undisturbed lake systems near Sydney and have enormous scientific value.

**Activities** Only low-impact activities, such as walking, swimming, canoeing and picnicking, are encouraged. Camping is not permitted anywhere in the park and powerboats are prohibited on the lakes.

**Access** 95 km south-west of Sydney, 35 km south-west of Camden off Remembrance Drive (unsealed). Open only during daylight hours. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Picton, phone 4677 0859**

## 44 Towra Point

AQUATIC RESERVE approx. 1400 ha

**Highlights** The reserve is adjacent to Towra Point Nature Reserve. Together, the reserves form the Towra International Wetlands which is the largest and most diverse estuarine wetland complex remaining in the Sydney region. The area supports migratory wading birds and the estuarine habitats include mangroves, saltmarsh, seagrass, tidal mudflats, and terrestrial vegetation communities. More than 230 species of fish have been recorded within the reserve

**Activities** Observe and enjoy the marine plants and animals with care. The aquatic reserve is divided into a Sanctuary and a Refuge zone. **No fishing or collection of any form is permitted in the Sanctuary zone. No spearfishing is permitted in either the Sanctuary or Refuge zone. Crab pots are allowed in the Refuge zone only.**

It is also prohibited to collect cunjevoi, commonly used as bait, any bait weed species and all invertebrates (dead or alive), including anemones, barnacles, chitons, cockles, crabs, mussels, octopus, pipis, sea urchins, starfish, snails and worms, and empty shells throughout the reserve

**Access** Only by boat and some parts of the Sanctuary zone are restricted.

**Kurnell, phone 9668 2000**

## 45 Wallarah

NATIONAL PARK 178 ha



**Highlights** Wallarah National Park conserves a diverse array of vegetation communities, including cabbage tree palm gullies, coastal heath, woodlands and forests. A wide range of native animals is found in the park. You might see a swamp wallaby or a sea eagle or spot whales and dolphins off the coast. There are birds to be seen in the coastal heath and goannas in the forest. At night, powerful owls search for their prey and you may be lucky enough to see this magnificent bird with prey in its talons.

**Activities** Pinny Beach is a popular fishing, swimming and surfing spot found along the coastal walk from Caves Beach. The coastal walk leads to spectacular vantage points and meanders through a diversity of natural features, including coastal rainforest and heath. Significant Aboriginal sites in the park serve as reminders of the region's culture and history.

**Access** The reserve may be accessed on foot via the coastal walk from Spoon Rocks Road at Caves Beach or via the Wallarah Peninsula Track from either Murrays Beach or Scenic Drive at Caves Beach.

**Lakes Area (Lake Munmorah), phone 4972 9000**

## 46 Wallumatta

NATURE RESERVE 6 ha



**Highlights** One of the last remaining turpentine—ironbark forests on Wianamatta shale soil in Sydney — only about 1% of the original forests remain in the metropolitan area.

**Activities** A loop walk explores the transition zone between the wetter shale forests of Sydney's north shore and the drier shale woodlands west of Parramatta. Stop and enjoy the tranquillity of this important bushland remnant and take time to appreciate some of the 35 species of birds that have been recorded in the reserve.

**Access** Corner of Twin and Cressy roads in the Sydney suburb of Ryde, 10 km north-west of the CBD. Access to the loop track is off Cressy Road.

**Lane Cove, phone 8448 0400**

## 47 William Howe

REGIONAL PARK 43 ha



**Highlights** This regional park supports natural vegetation within surrounding agricultural and residential areas. Expansive views of the surrounding areas are available from Turkeys Nest Dam.

**Activities** A walking track leads visitors to the lookout platform and picnic tables overlooking undulating slopes leading to the Nepean River. Dog walking (on a leash) is permitted.

**Access** The park is located in Narellan Vale, 70 km south west of Sydney, Mary Howe Place, via Narellan Road.

**Parramatta, phone 9895 7420**

## 48 Wollemi

NATIONAL PARK 501,698 ha



**Camping fee levels** 1 2

**Highlights** This park, the largest wilderness area in NSW and part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, is a maze of canyons, cliffs and undisturbed forest.

**Activities** Descend to the Colo River on Bob Turners Track (4 km, 200-metre descent, some steep sections) and enjoy the beaches in one of the state's longest and most scenic gorges. There are historic ruins at Newnes, across the Wolgan River from the camping area. The Glow Worm Tunnel is part of the old railway that serviced the area (access from Clarence on the Bells Line of Road). On the western side of the park, Dunns Swamp has easy walks and plenty of opportunities for swimming and canoeing. Car-based and small-caravan

camping is available here, (camping fees apply). Access is via unsealed roads. Contact Mudgee office for information. For Newnes and Coorongoo (contact Blackheath) and in the east at Wheeny Creek (short walk from the carpark), contact Richmond. Backpack camping is permitted throughout the park. Bookings and permits for camping are not required.

**Access** 100–250 km north-west of Sydney. Dunns Swamp is 25 km from Rylstone along Narrango Road; Newnes is 47 km north of Lithgow along Wolgan Road; access Coorongoo via Glen Davis, 35 km north of Capertee and Bob Turners Track starts off Putty Road 15 km north-west of Colo. All roads are unsealed.

**North-east: Bulga, phone 6574 5555**

**South-east: Richmond, phone 4588 5247**

**South-west: Blackheath, phone 4787 8877**

**West: Mudgee, phone 6372 7199**

## ACCOMMODATION

# Constables, Green Point and Steele Point Cottages

Sydney Harbour, a blaze of blue water, elegant watercraft gliding by, mansions by the waterfront. You can be part of it, relaxing in the heritage Constables and Green Point Cottages at Watsons Bay, only metres from Camp Cove beach and Sydney Harbour National Park. Or there's the romantic getaway, Steele Point Cottage, at Nielsen Park.

From Constables and Green Point you can walk around the harbour and Gap Bluff, soaking up the history and harbour views. Nielsen Park and Bondi

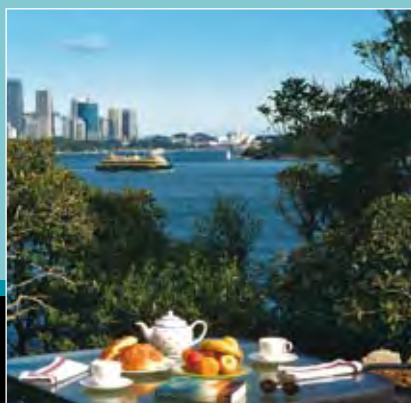
Beach are only a 10-minute drive away. Sydney CBD is just 20 minutes by car, with Watsons Bay Hotel, Doyles Restaurant and the Gap Bluff conference and function centre nearby.

Steele Point Cottage is a charming and intimate romantic getaway — and also gives you the opportunity to stay in a cottage surrounded by some of the last original native vegetation to be found south of Sydney Harbour.

Perched on the edge of a sandstone cliff in Nielsen Park, this historic cottage was built in 1880 as a gunners' barracks, part of the elaborate system of harbour defences. The cottage has been beautifully restored, and is now available for romantic escapes — with just one bedroom, it is the ideal couple's hideaway.

**For more information and bookings Contact Gap Bluff Centre Phone: 02 9337 2333.**

Steele Point Cottage (left) and Constables Cottage (right) Photos : M.Van Ewijk/DECCW





## 49 Wombeyan

KARST CONSERVATION RESERVE 417 ha



### Camping fee level — special fees

**Highlights** A spectacular drive from Sydney, Canberra or Wollongong will bring you to the best-kept secret in NSW — Wombeyan Caves. The Wollondilly, Junction, Kooringa and Mulwaree Caves offer excellent all-round guided tours with a wide variety of features, and the Fig-tree Cave is a spectacular self-guided cave that you can experience at your own leisure. There are several types of onsite accommodation available including a cottage, family cabins and dormitories (bookings essential). Wombeyan Caves also has a large camping ground with full amenities and a camper's kitchen and kiosk.

**Activities** Guided tours, camping, hiking, tennis and swimming. Wombeyan is also an ideal place for wildlife spotting and photography.

**Access** 180 km south of Sydney (via Mittagong). Coming into Goulburn from the Sydney entrance, turn right at the first set of lights, follow the road to Taralga, 10 km out of Taralga you will see the sign to Wombeyan.

**Wombeyan Caves, phone 4843 5976**

## 50 Wyrabalong

NATIONAL PARK 621 ha



**Highlights** The park's two scenic and forest-clad sections of coastline are separated by The Entrance. The southern part has high headlands, cliffs and rock platforms. The north is sandy and protects red gum forest and coastal rainforest.

**Activities** Swim at Tuggerah Beach (north) or Bateau Bay (south). There's good birdwatching by the lake, great surfing on the coast and several walking tracks. Visit Crackneck Lookout in the southern section, ideal for whale watching from late May to July, or enjoy a walk through the red gum forest in the north. Camping is not permitted.

**Access** 105 km north-east of Sydney. The two sections of the park are 5 km north and south of The Entrance off Wilfred Barrett Drive (north) and The Entrance Road (south) respectively.

**Lakes Area (Lake Munmorah), phone 4972 9000**

BELOW: Take a tour through one of the show caves at Wombeyan Karst Conservation Area. Photo: C. Jones, courtesy Tourism NSW

## 51 Yengo

NATIONAL PARK 153,115 ha



### Camping fee levels 2 3 4

**Highlights** A wild area of steep gorges and Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Mt Yengo is of cultural significance to local Aboriginal communities, and historic convict transport routes run within and adjacent to the park.

**Activities** Take a guided or self-guided walk along the Old Great North Road from Wisemans Ferry in the south-east. Drive from Wisemans Ferry to St Albans then north along Mogo Creek to Bucketty, the Hunter Valley or return to Sydney via Peats Ridge. Those with a 4WD vehicle can explore the Howes, Yango and Finchley trails, which can be accessed from Wollombi Road near Laguna or the Putty Road near Howes Valley (dry weather access only). There are great views from Finchley Lookout. Discovery walks, talks and tours are available throughout the year. Picnicking and car-based camping are available at Finchley and Mogo camping areas (toilets). Big Yango provides homestead accommodation, remote car-based camping (toilets) and scenic 4WD opportunities near the base of Mt Yengo (entry by permit, phone 4320 4203). There are many opportunities for backpack camping throughout the park.

**Access** 80–180 km north-west of Sydney. Finchley camping area is 12 km west of Laguna along the Finchley Track via Yango Creek Road (unsealed). Mogo camping area is 25 km north-west of St Albans on the unsealed Wollombi (Mogo Creek) Road. Big Yango is 35 km west of Laguna along the Yango Track and 20 km east of Howes Valley along the Howes Trail (unsealed).

**North: Bulga, phone 6574 5555**  
**East: Gosford, phone 4320 4200**

BELOW: Wyrabalong National Park's walking trails offer easy access to great whale-watching spots. Photo: S. Davis/DECCW



# DISCOVERY

## WALKS, TALKS AND TOURS

It's a simple fact — the more you discover on your park visit, the more you'll enjoy yourself, and the sooner you'll want to come back to explore even more.

You can gain an even greater insight through the *Discovery* program of walks, talks and tours, developed and led by specialist rangers and designed to help you — and your family — learn more about the environment.

You'll learn while having fun, too. Whether you're five or 95, you can be an explorer, discovering the secrets and unexpected delights of the landscape and its inhabitants.

There are plenty of experiences to choose from.

- ▶ Discover skills every explorer needs to stay safe in the bush. Learn about bush tucker and bush medicine, and how to minimise your impact on the fragile environment. All while enjoying breathtaking scenery and encountering amazing wildlife.
- ▶ Spotlight walks uncover the hidden world of nocturnal wildlife, relaxing canoe tours explore estuaries

and freshwater environments, night-time poetry and spooky stories bring historic sites to life.

- ▶ Along the coast you can learn about fragile sand dunes and the inhabitants of rockpools, or snorkel through marine parks learning the secrets of underwater life.
- ▶ There are geological and botanical tours, tag along four-wheel drive tours, and unique opportunities to learn about the culture and traditional lands of Aboriginal communities.
- ▶ Through the Aboriginal *Discovery* program, Aboriginal people conduct guided tours in parks and reserves around the state, in areas including the Blue Mountains, Jervis Bay, Sydney's southern outskirts, and western NSW. The guides interpret their cultural heritage, celebrating the close connections between Aboriginal people and their traditional lands.



TOP: Sydney Harbour National Park.  
Photo: D.Smith/DECCW

*Discovery* walks, talks and tours run throughout the year and there are lots of activities for families and kids during the school holidays. Tours and activities can be tailored to suit the needs of particular individuals or groups, such as schools, social clubs and conferences.

*Discovery* tours have limited numbers, to ensure a great experience for everyone. This means that bookings are essential.

- ▶ Individual park offices have details, or check out [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

## Other Parks Around Australia

There are many more national parks and reserves to explore than you'll find in this guide, both in NSW and across Australia.

### Australian Capital Territory

ACT Department of Territory and Municipal Services  
phone 132 281  
[www.tams.act.gov.au](http://www.tams.act.gov.au)

Namadgi National Park  
(Visitor Centre, phone 6207 2900)  
Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve  
(Visitor Centre, phone 6205 1233)

### Northern Territory

Parks and Wildlife Service NT  
phone 08 8999 4555  
[www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks](http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks)  
(For Kakadu and Uluru, see Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts)

Kakadu 08 8938 1100  
Uluru 08 8956 1100

### Queensland

Department of Environment and Resource Management  
phone 1300 130 372  
[www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au)

### South Australia

Department for Environment and Heritage  
phone 08 8204 1910  
[www.parks.sa.gov.au/parks](http://www.parks.sa.gov.au/parks)

### Tasmania

Parks and Wildlife Service Tasmania  
phone 1300 135 513  
[www.parks.tas.gov.au](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au)

### Victoria

Parks Victoria  
phone 13 19 63  
(for cost of local call Australia wide)  
[www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)

### Western Australia

Department of Environment and Conservation  
phone 08 9219 8000  
[www.dec.wa.gov.au](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au)

### Other Parks in NSW

All NSW national parks  
(Environment Line)  
phone 1300 361 967

Botanic Gardens Trust  
phone 9231 8111  
[www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au)

Mount Annan Botanic Garden  
phone 4648 2477

Mount Tomah Botanic Garden  
phone 4567 2154

Centennial Parklands  
(Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust)  
phone 9339 6699  
[www.cp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cp.nsw.gov.au)

Bicentennial Park  
(Sydney Olympic Park Authority)  
phone 9714 7888  
[www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au](http://www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au)

Parramatta Park (Parramatta Park Trust)  
phone 8833 5000  
[www.ppt.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ppt.nsw.gov.au)



# South Coast & Highlands

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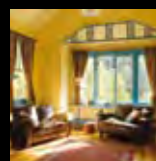


## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REGION

Between distant mountains and the endless ocean, a strip of national park follows almost the entire length of this coastline, protecting endangered flora and fauna while providing countless recreational opportunities. Along the coast, spotted gums, hundreds of years old, stretch their branches to the sky while waves crash over pristine, deserted beaches that sparkle in the sunlight.

Further west the land climbs upwards to the great alpine environment of Kosciuszko National Park, with its summer walks and winter snowfields.

**More information:** [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/south](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/south)



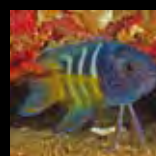
Enjoy the atmosphere of a bygone era at **Yarrangobilly Caves House** in Kosciuszko National Park.



Admire the views to Talbingo Reservoir at **Landers' Creek Falls** in Kosciuszko National Park.



Walk the spectacular **Light to Light Walk** in Ben Boyd National Park.



Discover the rich aquatic life and recreation in **Batemans Marine Park**.



Follow the alpine path from Charlottes Pass to the **Mt Kosciuszko summit**.



Camp in idyllic bushland with ocean views at **Depot Beach** in Murramarang National Park.

**FAR LEFT:** Take to the water in Bournda National Park, a place of great beauty with saltwater and freshwater lakes, a lagoon, a creek and beaches.  
Photo: A.Hutchings

**LEFT:** Experience the splendour of the alps in all seasons — an alpine walk in the warmer months reveals the dramatic landscape in all its glory.  
Photo: D.Fuchs, courtesy Tourism NSW





## 1 Barren Grounds

NATURE RESERVE 2024 ha



**Highlights** This heathland plateau is a mass of wildflowers in spring and is particularly suited to birdwatching. A range of walks offer magnificent views of the Illawarra coastline and surrounding countryside.

**Activities** There are several walking tracks, ranging from an easy 1.5 km to a more demanding 9 km. School education programs can be conducted on request.

**Access** 110 km south-west of Sydney, 20 km west of Kiama, and 12 km east of Robertson off Jamberoo Mountain Road.

**Fitzroy Falls, phone 4887 7270**

## 2 Batemans

MARINE PARK 85,000 ha

**Highlights** The marine park offers a continental shelf sea floor with sponge gardens, sandy beaches and rock platforms, rocky reefs and kelp beds, numerous islands, coralline algal banks, and extensive seagrass and mangrove habitats.

**Activities** Scuba diving, whale and other marine mammal watching, fishing, swimming, surfing and boating are all popular pastimes. Many scenic walks are available in adjacent Murrumbidgee and Eurobodalla national parks.

**Access** Stretches along the NSW south coast from the north end of Murrumbidgee Beach near Bawley Point, to Wallaga Lake in the south, with many access routes off the Princes Highway in between.

**Narooma, phone 4476 0800**

## 3 Ben Boyd

NATIONAL PARK 10,486 ha



**Camping fee level** 3

**Highlights** Rocky stretches of coastline with vivid rock formations, heaths and banksia forest flank Twofold Bay. Don't miss Boyds Tower, built for whale spotting by Ben Boyd. The Pinnacles — white sand cliffs topped by red gravel — and Green Cape Lightstation are well worth a visit. Unique heritage accommodation is available in the Green Cape assistant light-keepers' cottages.

**Activities** The 750 m walk to Boyds Tower is wheelchair-accessible. Day tours and accommodation are available at the lighthouse year round (phone Merimbula for bookings and information). A 30-km track, the Light to Light Walk, links Boyds Tower and the lightstation — a brochure is available from the park office in Merimbula. There's car-based camping (not for caravans) at Saltwater Creek and Bittangabee Bay; bookings are essential for Christmas and Easter holidays (write to PO Box 656, Merimbula 2548, fax 6495 5055 or email fscr@environment.nsw.gov.au).

**Access** In two sections to the north and south of Eden. The north section is via Haycock Road 8 km north of Eden off the Princes Highway. The south section is 25 km south of Eden on Green Cape Road (unsealed) off Edrom Road. Green Cape accommodation is designed for wheelchair access. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Merimbula, phone 6495 5000**

## 4 Biamanga

NATIONAL PARK 13,749 ha



**Highlights** Mumbulla Mountain, at the upper reaches of the Murrumbidgee River, is sacred to the Yuin people, and a number of sites throughout the park have spiritual significance to local Aboriginal groups. In 2006, Biamanga National Park was officially handed back to the Yuin Aboriginal people of the South Coast of NSW. The park is now jointly managed by a majority Aboriginal Owner Board of Management and the NPWS. The park also conserves an important area of substantially unmodified coastal foothill environments.

**Activities** Mumbulla Creek Falls has picnic facilities, barbecues, a boardwalk and an information display.

**Access** 20 km north of Bega off the Princes Highway. Unsealed roads.

**Narooma, phone 4476 0800**

## 5 Bimberamala

NATIONAL PARK 4396 ha



**Highlights** Much of the catchment area of the pristine Bimberamala River has recently been listed as a national park, and its untouched state makes it perfect for independent bushwalkers.

**Activities** Walkers and anglers will find exploring the park's forests and waterways a rewarding experience. Opportunities for backpack camping are limited due to the rugged terrain.

**Access** 30 km west of Batemans Bay and 10 km north of Kings Highway.

**Nowra, phone 4423 2170**

## 6 Bomaderry Creek

REGIONAL PARK 82 ha



**Highlights** Bomaderry Creek is a small oasis of bushland adjacent to the town of Bomaderry. Bush communities include patches of remnant rainforest, spotted gum forest, dry woodland and small hanging swamps. The small gorge is rich in Aboriginal heritage and sheer sandstone faces.

LEFT: Enjoy a peaceful rainforest walk through rainforest to Minnamurra Falls in Budderoo National Park. Photo: M. Van Ewijk/DECCW



**Activities** A walking track follows Bomaderry Creek and is suitable for a wide range of walkers. Visitor facilities include a grassed picnic area with sheltered tables, gas barbecue and toilets.

**Access** 140 km south of Sydney, 3 km north of Nowra. Turn off the Princes Highway at Narang Road, with the entrance gate 300 m on the left.

**Nowra, phone 4423 2170**

## 7 Bournda

NATIONAL PARK 2648 ha



**Camping fee level** 3

**Highlights** A place of great beauty and conservation significance, with saltwater and freshwater lakes, a lagoon, a creek and beaches.

**Activities** There are ample opportunities for swimming, fishing, canoeing and walking. There's a viewing platform at North Tura and good picnicking at Bournda Lagoon. The viewing platform and beach access at Turingal Head, north of Wallagoot Lake, is worth a visit to view the dramatic rock formations around the river mouth. Car-based and caravan camping (not powered) is available at Hobart Beach. Bookings are essential for the Christmas and Easter holiday periods (write to PO Box 656, Merimbula 2548, fax 6495 5055 or email fscr@environment.nsw.gov.au).

**Access** 20 km south-east of Bega on Sapphire Coast Drive. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Merimbula, phone 6495 5000**

## 8 Brindabella

NATIONAL PARK 18,472 ha



**Highlights** Stringybark, scribbly gum, box and peppermint forest, and subalpine snow gum and mountain gum forests protect threatened species, such as the powerful owl and corroboree frog, in the most northern of the Australian Alps national parks.

**Activities** Car-based camping is available at sites along the Goodradigbee River. Facilities are provided at Flea Creek. Responsible 4WD and motorcycle users can access the system of trails.

**Access** 30 km west of Canberra off Brindabella Road (4WD only).

**Queanbeyan, phone 6229 7000**

## 9 Budderoo

NATIONAL PARK 7120 ha



**Highlights** This park features excellent plateau walking tracks with fabulous views across sandstone country, heathlands and towards the Illawarra coast and Minnamurra Rainforest.

**Activities** Walking tracks, including one that's assisted wheelchair-accessible, have been constructed to three lookout platforms that provide superb views of Carrington Falls in the plateau section of the park. The popular Minnamurra Rainforest Centre lies below the sandstone plateau. A wheelchair-accessible boardwalk leads from the rainforest centre through subtropical and temperate rainforest areas and a separate paved walk leads to Minnamurra Falls. Backpack camping more than 1 km from roads is permitted on the Budderoo Plateau.

**Access** 120 km south-west of Sydney. Entry to the park is off Jamberoo Mountain Road. For Carrington Falls turn off Jamberoo Mountain Road up from Minnamurra Rainforest, 8 km east of Robertson. The Minnamurra Rainforest Centre is 15 km west of Kiama on Tourist Drive 9 — drive through the historic village of Jamberoo and follow the rainforest signs. Minnamurra Rainforest can also be accessed via Robertson and Carrington Falls. Vehicle entry fee of \$11 applies at Minnamurra only.

**Minnamurra, phone 4236 0469**  
**Fitzroy Falls, phone 4887 7270**

### Minnamurra

RAINFORREST CENTRE



**Budderoo National Park,**  
**Minnamurra Falls Road, Jamberoo**  
**Phone 4236 0469**

15 km west of Kiama on Tourist Drive 9, the Rainforest Centre provides an elevated boardwalk through the rainforest and a paved track to the Upper Falls — keep an eye out for superb lyrebirds in the undergrowth. The visitor centre provides information about the area and surrounding national parks, and a shop. The Lyrebird Cafe offers light meals and refreshments, and picnic and barbecue facilities are also available. Open 7 days a week, 9 am to 5 pm (closed Christmas Day). \$11 vehicle entry fee. The visitor centre, cafe and commencement of the rainforest walk (approx. 1 hour) close at 4 pm — you'll need to start the Upper Falls walk (approx. 2 hours) before 3 pm.

## ACCOMMODATION

### Green Cape Lightstation

Peaceful, misty mornings and relentless pounding seas — yours to enjoy from the comfortable isolation of the restored Green Cape Lighthouse Keepers' cottages in Ben Boyd National Park.

The NSW South Coast offers some of the world's finest whale-watching opportunities — and what better vantage point could there be than a lightstation? Whale watching is available from May to December, with plenty more to do all year round.

Your comfortable, self-contained accommodation is a base from which to explore the park and its surrounds, including the nearby coastal walking track and its beaches, offering great spots to fish. A free tour of the lighthouse is also available to guests.

Each cottage can accommodate up to six people with a maximum two-week stay.

**For more information and bookings**  
**Phone: 02 6495 5000.**



Green Cape Lightstation Cottages.  
Photo: M. Van Ewijk/DECCW





## Merimbula

### VISITOR CENTRE



**Cnr Sapphire Coast Drive and Merimbula Drive, Merimbula**  
Phone 6495 5000

This wheelchair-accessible centre provides visitors with information on walking tracks, camping areas, unique flora and fauna, and sites of cultural significance in the south-east forests from the Victorian border through to Batemans Bay and west into the escarpment country. Open 8.30 am to 4.30 pm Monday to Friday.

## 10 Bungonia

STATE CONSERVATION AREA 4007 ha



**Camping fee level** 3

**Highlights** The network of tracks and lookouts offers fabulous river and canyon views and access to one of Australia's prime caving spots.

**Activities** There are plenty of opportunities for various types of adventure recreation, such as canyoning and caving (BASE jumping prohibited). There's a well-equipped car-based camping area, including a camp kitchen (bookings required).

**Access** 175 km south-west of Sydney, 35 km east of Goulburn and 25 km south of Marulan via Bungonia along Lookdown Road. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Info line, phone 4844 4341**  
**Bungonia, phone 4844 4277**

## 11 Bushrangers Bay

AQUATIC RESERVE 4 ha



**Highlights** An excellent sheltered site, the reserve covers the whole bay including the shores, intertidal zones, kelp forests and submarine cliffs. The intertidal rock pools provide homes for a great variety of animals. Fish are abundant and seagrass beds provide a home for a variety of fish that forage between the seagrass and the other habitats found within the reserve.

**Activities** People can scuba dive and observe the marine animals and plants within the reserve. Within the reserve you can enjoy all forms of passive activity and recreation. Observe the marine plants and animals with care. Fishing by any method is prohibited in the area. It is prohibited to collect cunjevoi, commonly used as bait, any baitweed species and all invertebrates (dead or alive), including anemones, barnacles, chitons, cockles, crabs, mussels, octopus, pipis, sea urchins, starfish, snails and worms, and empty shells throughout the reserve.

**Access** From the eastern end of Bass Point, approximately 4 km south of Shellharbour on the NSW South Coast.

**Port Stephens, phone 4916 3826**

## 12 Cecil Hoskins

NATURE RESERVE 47 ha



**Highlights** The wetlands in this reserve support over 90 bird species (approximately one-third waterfowl), and sometimes in the late evening or early morning you may see a platypus.

**Activities** The 1-km walk on the edge of the wetland has seats for watching the birds or sitting and experiencing the peace and tranquillity. The picnic area has tables and interpretive signs. Camping is not permitted.

**Access** 115 km south-west of Sydney, 2 km north of Moss Vale on the Bowral—Moss Vale road.

**Fitzroy Falls, phone 4887 7270**

## 13 Clyde River

NATIONAL PARK 1278 ha



**Highlights** Approximately 9 km of river frontage on the peaceful Clyde River support a range of habitats, including mangrove communities.

**Activities** Holmes Lookout offers glimpses of the river and Batemans Bay. The Clyde River provides great fishing opportunities and car-based (4WD) and boat-based camping (no facilities).

LEFT: At Eurobodalla National Park on the far south coast you can take a dip at a sweeping golden beach or paddle in a peaceful estuary.  
Photo: S.Cohen/DECCW



**Access** 4 km west of Batemans Bay just south of Nelligen; enter via unsealed roads off Kings Highway or by boat up the Clyde River.

**Nowra, phone 4423 2170**

## 14 Conjola

**NATIONAL PARK** 11,063 ha



**Highlights** This coastal park features extensive forests beside beautiful lakes and estuaries, and large areas of woodland and heath that become a mass of wildflowers in spring.

**Activities** Monument Beach and Fishermans Rock have picnic areas and walking tracks. Camping is not permitted but there's a range of camping and accommodation in the surrounding villages and towns.

**Access** Enter via Goonawarra Drive from Cudmirrah, Cedar Road on the Bentalong Road, or Fishermans Rock from Berrara — all unsealed roads.

**Nowra, phone 4423 2170**

## 15 Cullendulla Creek

**NATURE RESERVE** 126 ha



**Highlights** Explore mangroves and the lower reaches of Cullendulla Creek with views across Batemans Bay and Tollgate Islands. Signs offering an insight into the local area have been installed along the raised Mangrove Walk.

**Activities** Enjoy walking, swimming, fishing and birdwatching along the creek, or take the wheelchair-accessible boardwalk from the carpark down to Cullendulla Beach.

**Access** Situated on the northern shoreline of Batemans Bay; enter off Surfside Road.

**Nowra, phone 4423 2170**

## 16 Davidson Whaling Station

**HISTORIC SITE** 27 ha



**Highlights** In these days of whale watching, the longest running shore-based whaling station in Australia, operating from the 1860s to the 1920s, reminds us of a very different era.

Davidson is the site of a remarkable alliance between humans and killer whales in the last century.

**Activities** A signposted walk to the Kiah Inlet highlights the ruins of the whale processing area and passes a charming rustic cottage in a historic garden setting. Assisted wheelchair access is to the cottage only (call Merimbula about vehicle access to the carpark).

**Access** 35 km south-east of Eden along Edrom Road (last 4 km unsealed).

**Merimbula, phone 6495 5000**

## 17 Deua

**NATIONAL PARK** 121,417 ha



**Camping fee levels** 1 2

**Highlights** This park is a place of rugged mountain ranges, bisected plateaus, karst caves, wild and scenic rivers and threatened plants and animal species. A significant portion of the park is wilderness.

**Activities** Cavers can explore the limestone caves (caving permits apply to some sites). Canoe on the upper Shoalhaven River or float on an air mattress near the camping areas. There are also opportunities for experienced bushwalkers. See the Big Hole (96 m deep) while camping at Berlang or Wyanbene Cave camping areas, or follow the Araluen Road and camp at Deua River, Bakers Flat or Dry Creek (car-based camping, minimal facilities, fees apply). A secluded camp area is also available at Bendethera (4WD only).

**Access** 100 km south-east of Canberra. Deua River and Bakers Flat camping areas are both on Araluen Road (unsealed but 2WD). Dry Creek camping area is nearby on Dry Creek fire trail (4WD access only). Berlang camping area is on Krawarree Road, 41 km south of Braidwood. Bendethera camping area (4WD only) is accessible either from the escarpment via Middle Mountain Rd, off Snowball Road, Minuma Range fire trail and Dampier Mountain fire trail, or from the coast, Bendethera firetrail (4WD only) via Western Boundary Road or Wamban Road and Little Sugarloaf Road off the Princes Highway.

**Narooma, phone 4476 0800**

## ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



This symbol next to a park description in this guide indicates that certain areas of the park are wheelchair-accessible, though it's a good idea to call the local office for details (see back cover). These facilities will often also be useful to visitors with reduced mobility or who are sight impaired. Here is just a sample:

### To the north:

Yuraygir, Oxley Wild Rivers, Dorrigo and Barrington Tops national parks.

### In Sydney and surrounding areas:

Sydney Harbour National Park (Bradleys Head and Nielsen Park), Blue Mountains National Park and Royal National Park.

### To the south:

Kosciuszko National Park (in winter or summer), Minnamurra Rainforest Centre in Budderoo National Park, and Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre.

### In the central and western regions:

Warrumbungle, Mutawintji and Willandra national parks.

A person with a disability may be accompanied by a trained assistance animal (guide dogs, hearing dogs, etc) in a park, other than in areas closed to the public.

For more information call local park offices or visit our website [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au) for detailed descriptions of accessible sites around the state.





## 18 Eurobodalla

NATIONAL PARK 2913 ha



Camping fee levels 1 3

**Highlights** Ocean beaches, spotted gum forests, wetlands and estuaries offer a variety of scenery and an important habitat area for waterbirds and threatened native animals such as the white-footed dunnart. The Eurobodalla area also has significant Aboriginal and European cultural sites.

**Activities** Enjoy camping, bushwalking, fishing, swimming, birdwatching, boating and other water activities. Congo camping area is suitable for both car and caravan camping. Brou Lake camping areas is not suitable for caravans. There are plenty of pleasant picnic spots.

**Access** Stretched along the coast from Moruya Head in the north to Tilba Lake in the south. Various access points off the Princes Highway.

Narooma, phone 4476 0800

## 19 Gulaga

NATIONAL PARK 4673 ha



**Highlights** Gulaga (Mt Dromedary) and the surrounding landscape have great spiritual significance to local Aboriginal people, particularly women. In 2006, Gulaga National Park was officially handed back to the Yuin Aboriginal people of the South Coast of NSW. The park is now jointly managed by a majority Aboriginal Owner Board of Management and the NPWS.

**Activities** Walk up the old mining access roads and enjoy views out over the coastal lakes. Tours of the area's cultural sites are available through Umbarra Aboriginal Cultural Tours at Wallaga Lake (phone 4473 7232).

**Access** 10 km north of Bermagui. From Tilba Tilba or off the Punkalla Road at Central Tilba. Wallaga Lake areas are best accessed by boat. Hire boats from Regatta Point or Beauty Point.

Narooma, phone 4476 0800

## 20 Illawarra Escarpment

STATE CONSERVATION AREA 2493 ha



**Highlights** Vantage points along the Illawarra Escarpment at Bulli, Mt Keira and Mt Kembla offer magnificent coastal views a short drive from Wollongong.

**Activities** Tracks through a variety of forests, including rainforest, cater for a wide range of walkers. Join a Discovery ranger on an educational stroll (bookings essential, phone 9542 0649). Many of the lookouts have wheelchair access.

**Access** 65 km south of Sydney via the Princes Highway or F6 Freeway to Bulli, Mt Ousley Road to Mt Keira Road, or Harry Graham Drive and Cordeaux Road to Mt Kembla.

Wollongong, phone 4223 3000

BELOW: Enjoy a summer walk in Kosciuszko National Park, renowned for its winter ski fields, Australia's highest mountain, and the famous Snowy River.  
Photo: N.Dada, courtesy Tourism NSW.

## Booderee

NATIONAL PARK

Booderee, which includes well-known spots such as Green Patch and Caves Beach, is jointly managed by the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community and the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Water Resources, not NSW National Parks (which is part of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW). There's a \$10 vehicle entry fee (or \$30 annual fee), even if you have a NSW National Parks annual pass. For details of the park, contact the visitor centre on 4443 0977 or [www.booderee.np.gov.au](http://www.booderee.np.gov.au). The park lies next to Jervis Bay National Park (see below), which is managed by NSW National Parks.

## 21 Jervis Bay

MARINE PARK 21,450 ha



**Highlights** Jervis Bay offers beaches, rocky platforms and reefs, extensive seagrass beds, estuaries, and deep-water cliffs with caves. Dolphins are a regular sight in the crystal-clear waters.

**Activities** Scuba diving, swimming, surfing, boating, kayaking and fishing are all popular. Picnic facilities and walking tracks are available in the surrounding Jervis Bay National Park.

**Access** 170 km south of Sydney, 25 km south-east of Nowra, with many access routes off the Princes Highway.

Huskisson, phone 4441 7752

## 22 Jervis Bay

NATIONAL PARK 4854 ha



**Highlights** Sections of the park fringe Jervis Bay, St Georges Basin and ocean beaches. The area is rich in Aboriginal heritage, includes important wetlands, and preserves a flourishing diversity of plants and animals. It lies next to the Commonwealth-managed Booderee National Park.

**Activities** The forest, bays and beaches are great for swimming, bushwalking, birdwatching or just enjoying the tranquillity. Greenfield Beach has visitor facilities, including electric barbecues, toilets, a shelter shed and wheelchair access to the beach. From Greenfield



Beach you can follow information signs on the White Sands Walk along the coast to Hyams Beach and return via the Scribbly Gum Track. Hammerhead Point near Currarong and Red Point near Callala Bay on the northern side of the bay have picnic areas with toilets. Camping is not permitted in the park but the nearby villages and Booderee National Park provide a range of accommodation, including camping areas and caravan parks.

**Access** 170 km south of Sydney, 25 km south of Nowra. Greenfield Beach is in Vincentia off Elizabeth Drive.

**Nowra, phone 4423 2170**  
**Fitzroy Falls, phone 4887 7270**

## 23 Kosciuszko

NATIONAL PARK 673,524 ha



**Camping fee level** 1

**Highlights** One of the world's great national parks, home to the highest mountains in Australia, the NSW ski fields and the famous Snowy River. There are endless opportunities for summer walks and winter snow sports, and a teeming variety of native wildlife.

**Activities** Snow sports are the big attractions in winter, but in warmer months you can admire the alpine wildflowers, visit historic homesteads on the treeless plains in the north of the park, or explore Yarrangobilly Caves and swim in the thermal pool. Alpine walks are limited to the warmer months, but lower-altitude walks are worth taking throughout the year. The Alpine Way has been fully sealed, providing a scenic route between Jindabyne and Khancoban.

Car-based camping areas with fireplaces and toilets are provided along major roads throughout the park, including the Alpine Way, the Khancoban Cabramurra road (closed in winter), the Snowy Mountains Highway, Elliot Way and Barry Way; phone for details about camping in these areas. Commercial accommodation is available at Thredbo, Perisher, Smiggin Holes, Charlotte Pass, Guthega and Sawpit Creek. For a real old-world high-country experience stay at Currango Homestead and cottages in the heart of the snow gum woodlands in the north of the park (phone 6947 7025 for bookings) or in the picturesque Yarrangobilly Caves House.

## STAYING SAFE IN ALPINE AREAS

Alpine areas present special safety issues, particularly in winter, so remember to take precautions such as the following:

- ▶ Always travel in a group, never alone, and tell relatives or friends of your travel plans.
- ▶ Always check the weather before leaving, and don't go if bad weather is approaching.

On any backcountry trip:

- ▶ Take a topographic map and compass and be sure you know how to use them.
- ▶ Take a waterproof jacket and trousers, extra warm clothing and food and drink. Take a bivouac bag or space blanket for emergencies. You may also want to take a personal locator beacon (PLB) – hire one from the Snowy Region Visitor Centre. See page 43 for more information on emergency beacons.
- ▶ If you're staying overnight take a good-quality sleeping bag and mountain tent – huts provide shelter but they may be full or you might not be able to reach them in bad weather.
- ▶ Take precautions all year round, not just in winter. In the summer months the weather can still change quickly.

If something goes wrong:

- ▶ If you're lost or injured, consider staying where you are; you'll be harder to find on the move and will use a lot of energy. It's best to find a sheltered spot, leave something visible for searchers, get as dry as possible, and wait.
- ▶ If you're above the tree line, don't drop down to tree level except for emergency shelter; it's almost impossible to be seen by helicopters if you do.
- ▶ If someone gets hypothermia (lowered body temperature), stop and warm them by providing shelter, warm dry clothes, a sleeping bag or shared body warmth. Don't try to find a hut and don't give the person alcohol (it makes them lose more heat). Note that signs of hypothermia are often mistaken for fatigue.

For more safety tips see pages 2, 33, 39, 43, 71 and 83.

You can also visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parksafety/](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parksafety/)





**Access** 450–600 km south-west of Sydney. Yarrangobilly Caves are 70 km south-east of Tumut on the Snowy Mountains Highway; the ski fields are 90–100 km west of Cooma on Kosciuszko Road and Alpine Way and at Selwyn Snowfields north-west of Cooma. During winter, motorists must carry properly fitting snow chains on most mountain roads. A vehicle entry fee applies year round on the Kosciuszko Road and Alpine Way and during winter at Mt Selwyn (ski season \$27 per day; outside ski season \$16 per day). Vehicles and horses are not permitted in the park's wilderness areas. A vehicle entry fee applies at Yarrangobilly Caves.

**Jindabyne, phone 6450 5600**  
**Tumut, phone 6947 7025**  
**Perisher, phone 6457 5214**  
**Khancoban, phone 6076 9373**  
**Yarrangobilly, phone 6454 9597**

The south-west gateway to Kosciuszko, based in the town of Khancoban (turn off the Alpine Way at the service station). There are free displays, and wheelchair access is provided. Open 7 days 9 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm. Extended hours in peak times of the year (closed Christmas Day).

## 24 Macquarie Pass

NATIONAL PARK 1064 ha



**Highlights** Some of Australia's most southern subtropical rainforests grow on the rugged sandstone escarpment of this park.

**Activities** A pleasant 2-km rainforest walk to the Cascades Waterfall, with signs along the way providing information about the park, starts from the carpark at the foot of the pass on the northern side of the Illawarra Highway. Backpack camping is permitted more than 1 km from any public-access road.

**Access** 115 km south-east of Sydney, 9 km west of Albion Park, and 7 km east of Robertson on the Illawarra Highway.

**Fitzroy Falls, phone 4887 7270**

## 25 Meroo

NATIONAL PARK 3643 ha



**Highlights** A wide variety of forest types, including spotted gum, adjoin the largely natural Tabourie, Burill, Termeil and Meroo coastal lakes.

**Activities** You can enjoy bushwalking, fishing, swimming and canoeing. Camping is permitted and there are

toilets at Meroo Head in the southern section of the park.

**Access** 5 km south of Ulladulla; enter via unsealed roads off the Princes Highway.

**Ulladulla, phone 4454 9500**

## 26 Mimosa Rocks

NATIONAL PARK 5802 ha



**Camping fee level** 3

**Highlights** A diverse coastline of rocky coves and headlands, long sandy beaches, and coastal lagoons, all backed by forested hills.

**Activities** The park provides opportunities for fishing, swimming, surfing, snorkelling, walking, birdwatching or just sightseeing. Car-based camping is available at Aragunnu, Picnic Point and Gillards, with only Gillards suitable for caravans. Walk-in camping is available at Middle Beach. Camp fees apply and are payable on site. Picnic areas with gas barbecues are at Aragunnu, Bithry Inlet, Middle Beach and Gillards. Carparks for other activities such as walks to beaches, lagoons and headlands are at Wajurda Point, Moon Bay, Nelson Beach and Goalen Head. Wheelchair accessible boardwalk and lookouts are at Aragunnu; other lookouts are at Middle Beach and Wajurda Point.

## Snowy Region

VISITOR CENTRE



**phone 6450 5600**  
**email [srvvc@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:srvvc@environment.nsw.gov.au)**

Facilities include a cafe, the National Parks shop and a cinema where you can watch a free screening of the 14-minute DVD Spirit of the Snowy Mountains as well as the latest movies. Extensive displays and touchscreens provide information on the area. Wheelchair access is provided. Open 7 days, 8.30 am to 5 pm (closed Christmas Day).

## Khancoban

INFORMATION CENTRE



**Scott Street, Khancoban,**  
**phone 6076 9373**

The south-west gateway to Kosciuszko, based in the town of Khancoban (turn off the Alpine Way at the service station). There are free displays, and wheelchair access is provided. Open 7 days 9 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm. Extended hours in peak times of the year (closed Christmas Day).

## Yarrangobilly Caves

VISITOR CENTRE



**Snowy Mountains Highway**  
**Yarrangobilly Caves,**  
**phone 6454 9597**  
**email [yarrangobilly.caves@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:yarrangobilly.caves@environment.nsw.gov.au)**

Come and discover nature's wonders inside the Snowy Mountains. The centre, located at the northern end of Kosciuszko National Park, provides tickets for guided and self-guided cave tours and access to a natural thermal bathing pool, barbecue facilities, picnic areas and a number of short walks. Stay in your own carefully restored self-contained wing of Caves House. Vehicle entry fee applies. Open 7 days, 9 am to 5 pm. Extended hours at peak times of the year (closed Christmas Day).

## Tumut Region

VISITOR CENTRE



**The Old Butter Factory**  
**5 Adelong Road, Tumut,**  
**phone 6947 7025**  
**email [tumutrvvc@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tumutrvvc@environment.nsw.gov.au)**  
**web [www.tumut.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tumut.nsw.gov.au)**

Located in the Old Butter Factory at the major intersection of the Snowy Mountains Highway and the Gundagai Road at the northern tip of Kosciuszko National Park, the centre supplies a wide range of information on the Tumut Region and northern Kosciuszko National Park. It has a display area showcasing what to see and do in the region, and a shop stocking maps, books, souvenirs and quality gifts. Wheelchair access is provided, so come and discover all there is to see and do in the high country. Open 7 days, 9 am to 5 pm (closed Christmas Day).

Book a guided *Discovery Tour* through the Visitor Centre for a great introduction to the High Country, its Aboriginal culture and diverse flora and fauna.

**Access** 22 km north-east of Bega off the Tathra—Bermagui road. The roads are unsealed but are suitable for 2WD in all weather.

**Narooma, phone 4476 0800**

## 27 Monga

**NATIONAL PARK** 26,464 ha



**Highlights** Monga National Park is the perfect place for a picnic and a stroll through lush, beautiful forests. Penance Grove is a pocket of cool temperate rainforest featuring ancient plumwood trees which form a cathedral-like canopy over tree ferns. The interpreted boardwalk is a must and children will enjoy the magic of this place with its unusual host. Mongarlowe River and Dasyurus picnic areas are shady and tranquil spots adjacent to the pristine waters of Mongarlowe River. The Corn Trail provides an opportunity for the more energetic, extending 15-km (one-way) down the escarpment to the headwaters of the Clyde River.

**Activities** Stroll along the Penance Grove boardwalk and a number of other short walks, picnic at one of the well-equipped picnic areas or take a drive through the park — some roads suitable for 2WD. Enjoy a full-day hike down the Corn Trail.

**Access** From Braidwood, head 18 km south-east along the Kings Highway, then turn right into River Forest Road and travel another 2 km to the park. Alternatively, head 8 km south of Braidwood on the Araluen Road before turning left into Reidsdale Road and following the signs to the park.

**Braidwood, phone 4842 1426**  
**Narooma, phone 4476 0800**

## 28 Montague Island

**NATURE RESERVE** 82 ha



**Highlights** From the end of winter to early December hundreds of seals make their home on Montague Island. It's also a breeding ground for 15 bird species, including about 8000 pairs of penguins. You can tour the lighthouse and a collection of historic buildings.

**Activities** To visit, join a day or evening adventure tour with a park guide from Narooma (tour fees apply). Overnight conservation tours are also available.

**Access** 9 km offshore from Narooma.

**Contact the numbers below for details.**

**Tour information and bookings:**  
**Narooma Visitor Centre, 4476 0800**  
**Narooma Charters, 4476 2240**

### Narooma

**VISITOR CENTRE**

**Cnr Graham and  
Burrawang Street, Narooma,  
phone 4476 0800**

The centre has information on southern NSW national parks, walking and drive tour opportunities. It's open Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm.

BELOW: Tour Montague Island Nature Reserve for an unforgettable glimpse of a heritage lighthouse surrounded by seals at play.  
Photo: A. Brown, courtesy of Tourism NSW

## ACCOMMODATION

### Yarrangobilly Caves House

In its heyday through the 1940s and 1950s, Yarrangobilly Caves House in Kosciuszko National Park was a popular cold-climate getaway for Canberra residents, trout anglers and workers.

Recently restored and reopened for the first time since the 1960s, it recreates a bygone era, with its heritage décor and comfortable family rooms. It's divided into two wings, sleeping seven and nine people in self-contained, self catered accommodation — so it's great for a family or bunch of friends.

Caves House has been described as a hidden gem, offering the perfect, activity-based family holiday. Fishing, walking, photography and swimming in the natural thermal pool — there's so much to do and see close by. The three limestone caves — South Glory Cave, Jersey Cave and Jillabenan Cave — are breathtaking, some of the finest in Australia, and there are daily guided tours.

**For more information and bookings**  
**Phone: 02 6947 7025**



Yarrangobilly Caves House.  
Photo: M. Van Ewijk/DECCW





## Fitzroy Falls

VISITOR CENTRE



**Morton National Park,**  
Nowra Road,  
Fitzroy Falls, phone 4887 7270

You can pick up information on all the national parks in southern NSW, Australian-made souvenirs, maps, postcards, books and local crafts. School education programs, guided walks, videos and slide shows are conducted in the resource room, and there are interactive displays for children. The Falls Cafe offers a range of home-cooked meals, drinks and snacks in an indoor/outdoor setting. A wheelchair-accessible boardwalk to the falls and lookouts provides views of the waterfall and sandstone escarpment. Open 7 days, 9 am to 5.30 pm (closed Christmas Day). Vehicle entry fee applies.

## 29 Morton

NATIONAL PARK 190,751 ha



**Camping fee levels** 1 3

**Highlights** Explore sandstone scenery on a grand scale throughout the park. To the south, George Boyd Lookout, Little Forest Plateau and Pigeon House Mountain/Didthul offer views of the coastline and the Budawang wilderness areas. The recently upgraded Tianjara Lookout, on the Nowra—Braidwood road, provides views of Tianjara Falls. To the north, Fitzroy Falls and Belmore Falls plunge off the plateau into rainforest gullies. On the western side at Tallong there are wonderful views of the Shoalhaven Gorge from Badgerys and Longpoint lookouts.

**Activities** Experienced walkers will find extensive opportunities for remote bushwalking from several locations, especially in the spectacular Budawangs, and easier walks at Fitzroy Falls, Belmore Falls, Little Forest and Bundanoon. You can drive to a range of breathtaking lookouts. Backpack camping more than 300 m from roads is permitted throughout most of the park, and there's car-based camping at Gambells Rest at Bundanoon — facilities

include hot showers (bookings essential and fees apply). Fires are not permitted. There's some provision for caravan access (three sites only, no power).

**Access** Multiple entry points. 150–200 km south-west of Sydney. 7 km east of Moss Vale on Nowra Road. Bundanoon is 17 km south of Moss Vale. Vehicle entry fees apply at Fitzroy Falls (\$3 per day) and Bundanoon (\$7 per day).

**Fitzroy Falls, phone 4887 7270**

## 30 Mount Imlay

NATIONAL PARK 4822 ha



**Highlights** Mt Imlay offers glimpses of the coast while walking through unique forest. The Mt Imlay area supports a population of extremely rare *Eucalyptus imlayensis*. Aboriginal people know the mountain as Balawan, a powerful spiritual place of great significance. The mountain was named in more recent times after the three Imlay brothers, who played an important part in opening the Eden—Monaro district to European settlement in the 1830s and 40s.

**Activities** The 3-km track (about 4 hours return) to the summit from the end of the Burrawang Forest Road is very steep and rough and should only be attempted in daylight with good weather

BELOW: Watch the cascades from the popular Fitzroy Falls viewing platforms in Morton National Park. Photo: J.Winter/DECCW



conditions. There's a picnic area at the western end of Burrawang Forest Road, where the mountain track starts.

**Access** 35 km south-west of Eden. Entry is from the Burrawang Forest Road off the Princes Highway 20 km south of Eden.

**Merimbula, phone 6495 5000**

## 31 Murramarang

ABORIGINAL AREA 60 ha



**Highlights** The headland complex of Aboriginal middens — mounds with shells and other cultural objects — is important to local Aboriginal communities, as well as being scientifically significant. This site, the largest on the south coast and one of only three more than 10,000 years old, contains a dense concentration of stone objects, shells, and bones from birds, fish and animals. The variety of tool types, including rare bone tools, illustrates the long history of its occupation.

**Activities** There's a self-guided walking track, including panoramic views of the coastline, Brush Island, Durras Mountain and the hinterland ranges.

**Access** 40 km north of Batemans Bay. Enter via Murramarang Road off the Princes Highway at Termeil. Walk 800 metres along the public right-of-way to Racecourse Beach.

**Nowra, phone 4423 2170**

## 32 Murramarang

NATIONAL PARK 12,095 ha



**Camping fee levels** 3 4

**Highlights** Beaches, rock platforms, spotted gum forests and rainforest gullies surround beautiful Durras Lake.

**Activities** Explore Durras Lake and Durras Mountain on a range of walking tracks. Stay at Depot, Pebbly or Pretty beaches (caravans, cabins and camping sites available; bookings essential). Facilities at Depot Beach and Pretty Beach include hot showers. Cabins at Depot Beach can accommodate wheelchairs.

**Access** 10 km north of Batemans Bay along various access points off the Princes Highway. Mostly unsealed roads. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Nowra, phone 4423 2170**

## 33 Nadgee

NATURE RESERVE 20,671 ha



**Highlights** Colourful headland cliffs line the only coastal wilderness in NSW, protecting one of the largest undeveloped catchments on the eastern seaboard.

**Activities** Unique coastal walks take in sandy beaches, rocky headlands and lush coastal heath. You'll need a permit for overnight bushwalking (bookings are essential and fees apply; write to PO Box 656, Merimbula NSW 2548 or fax 6495 5055). Greenglade and Baycliff, on the edge of the wilderness, offer excellent picnicking and beach fishing. Both areas are accessed via Wonboyn village.

**Access** 35 km south of Eden. Entry is via Wonboyn Road (unsealed) off the Princes Highway 20 km south of Eden.

**Merimbula, phone 6495 5000**

## ACCOMMODATION

# Depot and Pretty Beach Cabins

The NSW South Coast is famous for its perfect, unspoilt beaches. Depot Beach and Pretty Beach, at the southern end of the Shoalhaven, offer wonderful day excursions — but those in the know take advantage of self-contained cabins to really relax and unwind in a beautiful beachside location.

Murramarang National Park encompasses these spectacular beaches and more, offering abundant bird and animal life, including kangaroos, grazing close to the beaches.

Spend your days exploring. You'll never tire of the park's wonderful walks — beachside, lakeside, level strolls and challenging climbs leading to spectacular ocean views.

Birdwatching — more than 90 species have been recorded in the park — photography, nature study, rock hopping and exploring rockpools, fishing and picnicking. There are options for the whole family.

And at night, comfortable cabins allow you to see a different side to the park, observing nocturnal animals under the stars. A range of one and two bed-room cabins will sleep up to six people, and each provide a fully-equipped kitchen. Facilities are also available for camping.

**For more information and bookings**  
Depot Beach phone: 02 4478 6582,  
Pretty Beach phone: 02 4457 2019.

Depot Beach cabins.  
Photos: M. Van Ewijk/DECCW





## 34 Narrawallee Creek

NATURE RESERVE 878 ha



**Highlights** Explore beautiful estuaries, coastal forests, quiet beaches and honeycombed rock platforms.

**Activities** The creek is a great place to observe birdlife, so take binoculars and a field guide. Conjola and Buckleys beaches and the Narrawallee Inlet provide excellent fishing, swimming and surfing. A network of walking tracks leads through forests and alongside mangroves. There's a picnic area near Conjola Beach.

**Access** 20 km north of Ulladulla along the Lake Conjola Road and Thorn Street.

**Nowra, phone 4423 2170**

## 35 Seven Mile Beach

NATIONAL PARK 898 ha



**Highlights** The long sweep of Seven Mile Beach is rimmed with sand dunes and a variety of coastal sand forests, some of which are listed as endangered ecological communities.

**Activities** At Beach Road the new wooden walkway to the beach and viewing platform and the nearby carpark provide easy beach access to all, including the disabled. Close by there is a large picnic area with barbecues in a pleasant forest area. A second picnic area is located closer to Gerroa, set among tea trees and banksias with easy access to the beach. From the picnic area there are loop walking tracks through the forest and along the beach. Camping is not permitted in the park.

**Access** 140 km south of Sydney, 8 km south of Gerringong along Gerroa Road, towards Nowra.

**Nowra, phone 4423 2170**

## 36 South East Forest

NATIONAL PARK 115,534 ha



**Camping fee level** 1

**Highlights** Spectacular old-growth forests, heathlands, upland swamps, granite boulders and moist fern-filled gullies dominate the scattered sections of this park.

**Activities** Scenic drives provide access to picnic areas at Six Mile Creek, White Rock River, Wolumla Peak, Myrtle Mountain, Goodenia Rainforest, Big Jack and Myanba Creek. At Myanba Gorge, viewing platforms look out across the Towamba Valley. Viewing platforms at Pipers Lookout on Brown Mountain offer dazzling views across the Bega Valley. Car-based camping is available at Six Mile Creek and Postmans Track. Caravan based camping is available at Nunnock Swamp and Waratah Gully.

**Access** 440–550 km south of Sydney. Six Mile Creek is 12 km west of Candelo on the Tantawangalo Mountain Road (unsealed). Access to Myanba Gorge is via Coolangubra Forest Way and Kanoonah Road (both unsealed) or along the Bucky Springs Road south-east from Bombala. Pipers Lookout is 60 km west of Bega along the Snowy Mountains Highway.

**Bombala, phone 6458 4080**  
**Merimbula, phone 6495 5000**  
**Narooma, phone 4476 0800**

## 37 Tallaganda

NATIONAL PARK AND STATE  
CONSERVATION AREA 21,879 ha

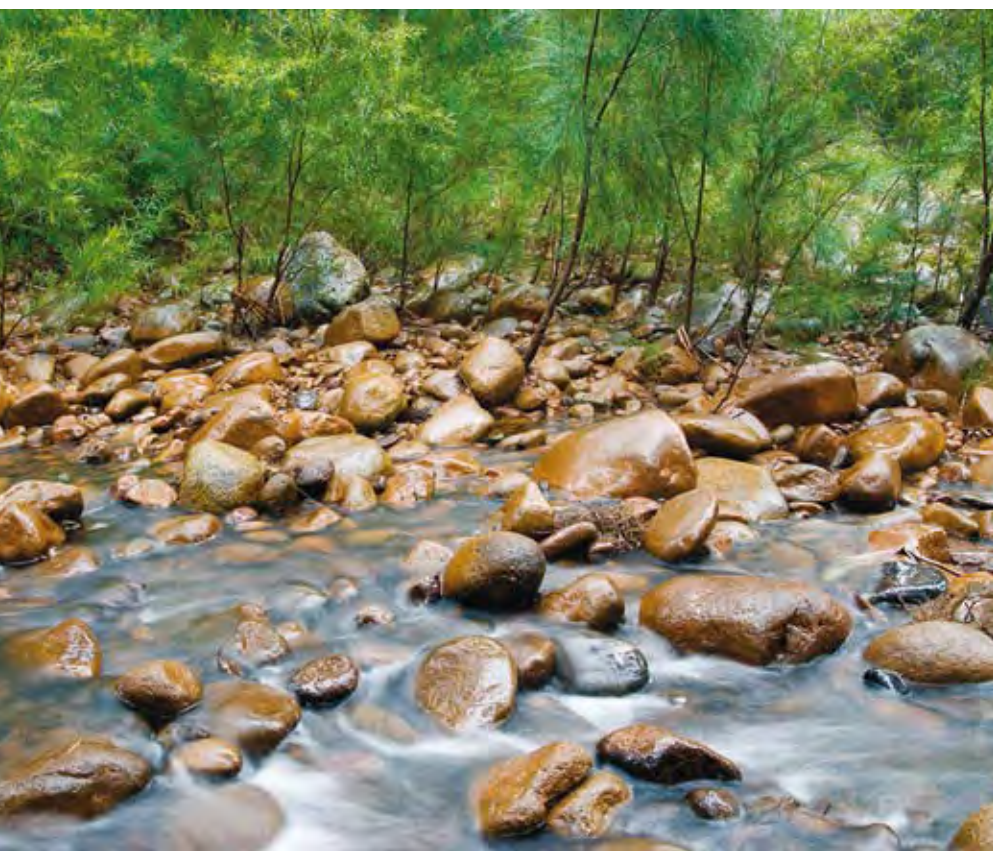


**Highlights** Two sections of the Great Dividing Range south-east of Canberra support a range of forest habitats, including stringybark, scribbly gum, brown barrel and peppermint forest, as well as subalpine snow gum and mountain gum forest. The park provides habitat for threatened species such as the spotted-tailed quoll, powerful owl and barking owl.

**Activities** The park has no facilities but there are plenty of opportunities for bushwalking, orienteering, 4WD touring and birdwatching. Trail bike riding, horse riding and cycling can also occur on the park's public access system. There's an informal picnic area at Mulloon Creek in the northern section of the park.

**Access** 50 km south-east of Canberra, off the Captains Flat–Braidwood and Hoskinstown–Braidwood roads (4WD recommended).

**Queanbeyan, phone 6229 7000**



LEFT: The cool waters of Wadbilliga River are an easy walk from the Cascades carpark in Wadbilliga National Park.  
Photo: M. Van Ewijk/DECCW

## 38 Wadbilliga

NATIONAL PARK 98,530 ha



**Camping fee level** 1

**Highlights** An area of mountainous wilderness cradling one of the state's largest undisturbed river catchments.

**Activities** A 3-km walk (2 hours return) extends from Cascades carpark to Tuross Falls. There is a new viewing platform 100 metres from the carpark overlooking the Cascades and gorge downstream. You can camp at Lake Creek or Cascades and picnic at Wadbilliga Crossing.

**Access** Enter Lake Creek and Wadbilliga Crossing from Cobargo via Yowrie and Bourkes roads. Access Cascades from Cooma and Counteganey via Badja Forest Road and Tuross Falls Road.

**Narooma, phone 4476 0800**

## 39 Woomargama

NATIONAL PARK 23,577 ha



**Highlights** Lying near the Murray River, this park contains the largest remnant of box woodlands on the south-west slopes of NSW.

**Activities** Norths Lookout on the Tin Mine Trail provides extensive views over the Riverina. The Tin Mines picnic and camping area (suitable for backpack and vehicle based camping) is a stopping point on the Hume and Hovell Walking Track.

**Access** 25 km south-east of Holbrook, 40 km west of Tumbarumba. 4WD access (no 2WD) when dry, and no access when wet.

**Tumut, phone 6947 7025**

BELOW: Take a scenic drive through South East Forest National Park and marvel at the impressive granite boulders paving the dramatic landscape. Photo: M.Van Ewijk/DECCW



## RESPONSIBLE CAVING

Caves are spectacular places to visit and caving offers a thrilling opportunity to explore these unique environments.

Caving is an activity that involves inherent risks however – cave environments may contain areas of little or no natural light, uneven and slippery surfaces, unstable areas, cold water, deep pools, elevated carbon dioxide levels (foul air), sudden and unfenced drops and other natural hazards.

In some cases, the risks associated with caving can be reduced to more acceptable levels but they can never be completely eliminated so be aware and take steps to minimise the risks:

- ▶ Undertake caving with an attitude of self-reliance, responsibility and preparedness. In practical terms this means careful planning, competent organisation, appropriate provisioning and thorough training.
- ▶ Undertake caving with a party of at least four. This is the smallest group that is able to muster sufficient physical resources for effective self rescue and provide adequate care should a member become injured or incapacitated.
- ▶ Ensure at least one member of the party holds an approved first aid certificate and that all participants know basic emergency procedure in case of an accident.
- ▶ Prior to every trip:
  - identify the known and potential hazards that may exist in the cave(s) to be visited
  - notify local speleological groups of the trip intentions, giving sufficient notice so they can assist in identifying any hazards or needs for special equipment
  - decide on the communication procedures to be used while underground
  - ensure that all trip participants have the necessary qualifications, competencies and experience that is required to undertake the proposed caving/speleological activities, and to safely navigate/manage the conditions and hazards that could be reasonably expected.

For more safety tips see pages 2, 33, 39, 43, 65 and 83.

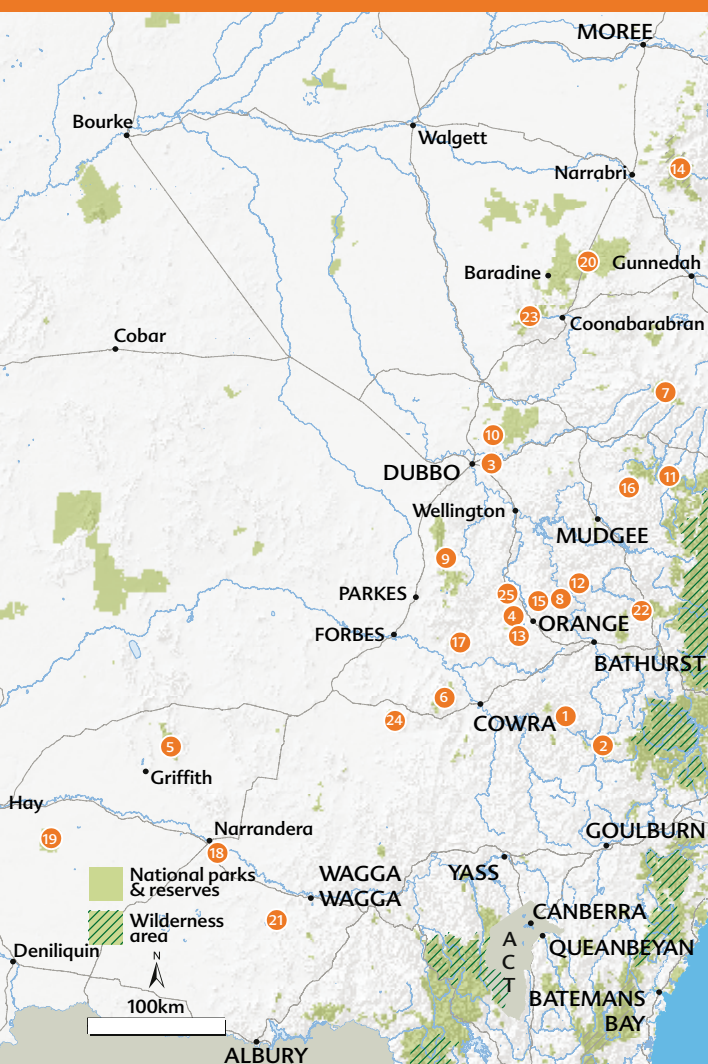
You can also visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parksafety/](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parksafety/).





# Central NSW

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REGION

Wide sandy riverbanks, open plains, sandstone cliffs — and above it all, the volcanic, eucalypt-cloaked Warrumbungles. Uncover the abundant Aboriginal and Colonial heritage spread throughout the region's parks and reserves.

Experience the thriving art community of former gold rush town Hill End or explore bushranger haunts around the Weddin Mountains. All this, and cosy country towns offering the finest hospitality — you'll want to stay a while.

More information: [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/central](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/central)



Escape to a peaceful bush cabin at Dawsons Spring in **Mount Kaputar National Park**.



Travel back in time to 19th century NSW in the living village of **Hill End Historic Site**.



Marvel at the grand Archway at **Abercrombie Karst Conservation Area**.



Check out the impressive **Sawn Rocks** in **Mount Kaputar National Park**.



Camp under starry skies and dramatic rocky spires at **Warrumbungle National Park**.



Follow the bird routes through the unique **Pilliga Forest**.

**FAR LEFT:** Sawn Rocks is Australia's best example of the geological formation called organ-piping. You can see this natural wonder on an easy walk in Mount Kaputar National Park. Photo: N.Sullivan, courtesy of Tourism NSW

**LEFT:** Hit the walking trails of Warrumbungle National Park and discover the dramatic beauty of this popular park's forested ridges, deep gorges and rocky spires and domes. Photo: R.Scott/DECCW





## 1 Abercrombie

KARST CONSERVATION RESERVE



### Camping fee level — special fees

**Highlights** The Abercrombie Caves lie in a quiet, picturesque valley, 4 hours from Sydney. Here you'll find the Archway — the largest natural archway in the Southern Hemisphere. And a number of other grand and richly decorated caves. A kiosk at the caves sells takeaway food and souvenirs.

**Activities** Cave tours, camping, hiking, swimming and fossicking. There is an abundance of wildlife. Open everyday 9 am to 5 pm.

**Access** A four-hour drive from Sydney. Follow the M4 motorway west through the Blue Mountains, Katoomba, Lithgow and on to Bathurst. The reserve is approximately one hour from Bathurst on the Trunkey Creek—Goulburn Road.

**Abercrombie Caves,**  
phone 6368 8603

## 2 Abercrombie River

NATIONAL PARK 19,000 ha



### Camping fee level 1

**Highlights** Deep waterholes beneath towering casuarinas are threaded along three waterways as they run through the largest remaining patch of low, open forest in the south-west central tablelands area.

**Activities** Fish for trout in the streams (licence required) or enjoy swimming and canoeing in the waterholes when water is high. Car-based camping is available at Silent Creek, The Sink (Retreat River), The Beach (Abercrombie River) and Bummaroo Ford (Abercrombie River). A 4WD is needed for all parts of the park except Bummaroo Ford.

**Access** 120 km west of Sydney, 40 km south of Oberon along Abercrombie Road (5 km of unsealed).

**Oberon, phone 6336 1972**

## 3 Beni

STATE CONSERVATION AREA 1841 ha



**Highlights** Beni State Conservation Area provides protection for a diverse range of plant and animal communities typical of central west NSW. Rare woodland birds are common in the Ironbark/Cypress vegetation communities that dominate the reserve.

**Activities** Located only 10 minutes from Dubbo, visitors can go picnicking, walking, and cycling in the park. A picnic area is currently being constructed and visitors should contact the local office for further information.

**Access** The reserve's main trails are accessible to 2WD vehicles, however they can become boggy after rain. The best access from Dubbo is via Whitewood Road.

**Dubbo, phone 6841 7100**

## 4 Borenore

KARST CONSERVATION RESERVE



**Highlights** These natural wonders located just 17 kilometres from Orange are ideal for a morning adventure, a midday exploration, afternoon bushwalk or a day relaxing in the sun. Wander over the reserve and explore the many wonders of the Verandah and Arch caves. Recommended for those who are a little more adventurous, however sturdy shoes and a torch is required as parts of the Arch Cave are dark.

**Activities** The reserve is open for day visitation only and is a popular recreational area offering peaceful natural surrounds for picnics and bushwalks. There are gas barbecues and disabled toilet facilities.

**Access** Located on the Orange—Forbes road, some 17 km from Orange.

Open everyday 9 am to 5 pm

**Phone 6332 7640**

## 5 Cocoparra

NATIONAL PARK 8358 ha



### Camping fee level 1

**Highlights** Wattles, orchids and blue-tinged cypress pines contrast against rich red rocks in one of the Riverina's rare forest remnants. After heavy winter rains the creeks flow, waterfalls leap into life and the land is bright with wildflowers.

**Activities** Walking in the park you're likely to see plenty of animals, and the track from Jacks Creek picnic area passes an impressive gorge. Car-based and caravan camping is available at Woolshed Flat. Within the park there are four day-use areas — Jacks' Creek, Store Creek, The Pines and Spring Hill picnic areas — and you'll find free gas barbecues at these sites. No open fires are allowed.

**Access** 25 km north-east of Griffith from Myall Park Road, signposted at Yenda. Roads are unsealed and may be difficult in wet weather.

**Griffith, phone 6966 8100**

## 6 Conimbla

NATIONAL PARK 7590 ha



### Camping fee level 1

**Highlights** Yambira Mountain and its surrounding forested ranges rise nearly 500 metres above the plain, forming a 'bush island' amid the central west farmlands. Rock ledges and waterfalls have formed along some of the creeklines, and wildflowers brighten the landscape in spring.

**Activities** Enjoy magnificent views from Ironbark walking track, or go birdwatching along the Wallaby track. Backpack camping is available.

**Access** To reach the main section of the park turn off the Mid Western Highway into Barryrenie Rd, 9 km west of Cowra, or south from Gooloogong on to Kangaroo Road.

**Forbes, phone 6851 4429**



## 7 Coolah Tops

NATIONAL PARK 13,265 ha



Camping fee level 1

**Highlights** Waterfalls plunge from the plateau heights in this spectacular park. Giant grass trees and tall, open forest with stands of huge snow gums shelter abundant wildlife, including gliders, wallabies, eagles and rare owls.

**Activities** The higher altitude offers cool walks throughout the year and amazing views northward towards the Liverpool Plains. There are plenty of opportunities for picnicking, as well as car-based, caravan (very limited) and backpack camping at the western end of the park. Historic Brackens Cottage is available for accommodation — bookings essential.

**Access** 30 km east of Coolah, along Coolah Creek Road (unsealed sections). 4WD is necessary on some roads in the park, but camping areas at The Barracks and The Pines are 2WD-accessible.

**Mudgee, phone 6372 7199**

## 8 Girralang

NATURE RESERVE 640 ha



**Highlights** The area of this reserve was part of the Ophir goldfields and was first mined in 1851 — one of the earliest gold strikes in Australia. Casuarina forests line the riverbanks, interspersed with red stringybark, white box, red ironbark and bundy box. Swamp wallabies and eastern grey kangaroos are common and spotted-tailed quolls have been sighted in the area.

**Activities** Access to some areas of the reserve is not easy and there are no facilities. However, you can spend the day exploring mining ruins along Ophir Creek, where you might see a platypus or eastern water dragon, or follow Dry Creek firetrail. Camping is not permitted.

**Access** 24 km north-east of Orange via the Ophir Road (take Millers Crossing and turn east for the last 2 km).

**Bathurst, phone 6332 7640**

FAR LEFT: Join a tour and explore the richly decorated caves of Abercrombie Karst Conservation Reserve.

Photo courtesy Tourism NSW.

LEFT: Feel the wind on your face on a bike ride through the spectacular snow gums of Coolah Tops National Park.

Photo: C.Pavich

## 9 Goobang

NATIONAL PARK 42,080 ha



Camping fee level 1

**Highlights** Flora and fauna from eastern and western NSW overlap in a 55-km stretch of range and escarpment country, forming the far-western foothills of the Great Dividing Range.

**Activities** You can go picnicking, walking or backpack camping, and Caloma Trig lookout offers fantastic views of the surrounding countryside. There are camping and picnic areas at Wanda Wandong and Greenbah camping areas. Horse riding requires a permit.

**Access** Wanda Wandong campground — follow the road signs located north of Tomingley on the Newell Highway, onto Gundong Road. This road is almost fully paved to the national park entrance, and is suitable for 2WD vehicles towing caravans. Greenbah Creek Camping Area — follow the road signs located 8 km south of Peak Hill on the Newell Highway onto the unpaved Peak Hill—Baldry road.

**Forbes, phone 6851 4429**

## 10 Goonoo

NATIONAL PARK AND STATE CONSERVATION AREA 62,778 ha



**Highlights** This extensive forest north-east of Dubbo protects over 35 threatened ecological communities, plants and animals, including koalas, eastern pygmy-possums, barking owls, turquoise parrots and many other threatened woodland bird species. The forest is a major stronghold for the spectacular glossy black-cockatoo and contains the eastern-most population of the endangered malleefowl in Australia.

Ancient red gums line the sandy creek beds and ironbark trees tower over the surrounding native pine thickets, box-gum flats and she-oak stands, which provide food for the rare glossy black-cockatoos.

**Activities** Ride your mountain bike or walk along the old forestry trails that crisscross through the park. Enjoy a relaxing picnic by one of the many dams or natural waterholes and sit quietly at dusk to watch the elusive glossy black-cockatoos as they come in for their evening drink. Go bird watching in spring and admire the colourful array of wildflowers that cover the forest floor.

**Access** Goonoo National Park and State Conservation Area can be accessed along either side of the Mendooran Road, approximately 25 km north of Dubbo. All roads are unsealed, suitable for 4WD vehicles only. Many roads become impassable after heavy rain.

**Dubbo, phone 6841 7100**

## ACCOMMODATION

### Abercrombie Karst Conservation Area Cabins

This is a place for those who seek adventure, with challenging walks, fishing and, of course, exploring the caves on guided or self-guided tours.

At Grove Creek, there are two basic standard cabins sleeping up to six, and two deluxe cabins sleeping four. Arch Cottage is a self-contained three-bedroom house, sleeping up to eight.

The Archway Cave is part of a 1.4 km long self-guided tour, which brings the visitor to the southern end of the Archway along the creek and valley.

Abercrombie Caves are the most accessible in Australia, and there are others to explore, such as the three huge chambers of King Solomon's Temple and the shawl formations of Red Shawl Chamber. There are night tours of the caves, lit to showcase spectacular arches and natural decoration.

Grove Creek also features deep water holes where rainbow trout can be fished from October to June.

**For more information and bookings**  
**Phone: 02 6368 8603**



Arch Cottage.  
Photo: B.Hlavica/DECCW





## 11 Goulburn River

NATIONAL PARK 70,649 ha



Camping fee level 1

**Highlights** The Goulburn River snakes its way from west to east between dramatic sandstone cliffs pocked with caves. Emus, redneck wallabies, goannas, platypuses and a rich selection of birdlife thrive among eucalypt woodlands.

**Activities** Areas of broad, sandy riverbank, often lined with river oaks, provide easy walking access to rugged scenery. Picnic sites and car-based camping are available along the Goulburn River at Spring Gully (2WD) and Big River (4WD recommended).

**Access** 45 km north-east of Mudgee, 22 km south-west of Merriwa. Access is mainly via unsealed dry-weather roads through Merriwa, Mudgee or Sandy Hollow. Camping area access is via Wollar on Mogo Road (unsealed, dry weather only).

**Mudgee, phone 6372 7199**

BELOW: Rise above the surrounding plains on a rock climb in Mount Kaputar National Park, an island of wilderness clinging to the slopes of the now-extinct Nandewar Volcano. Photo: N.Sullivan, courtesy Tourism NSW

## 12 Hill End

HISTORIC SITE 134 ha



Camping fee levels 2 3

**Highlights** Hill End is a living village featuring intact goldrush streetscapes and buildings dating back to the 1860s. Preserved much as it was in its heyday, it's the perfect place to relive the early goldmining days of 19th-century NSW. Hill End's landscape also played a significant role in Australian art, inspiring artists such as Russell Drysdale, John Olsen, Donald Friend and Brett Whiteley.

**Activities** Take a self-guided tour of the town starting at the visitor centre and museum. Bald Hill Tourist Mine is a popular attraction and tours of historic Craigmoor House are available on the Australia Day and Easter long weekends. Car-based and caravan camping are available at Glendora or in the village itself (with 12 powered sites for caravans — fees \$10/\$5 powered; \$7/\$4 unpowered); camping areas have accessible toilets and hot showers with handrails.

**Access** 85 km north of Bathurst via Sofala (25 km unsealed), 72 km via Hargraves (13 km unsealed).

**Hill End, phone 6337 8206**

## Hill End

VISITOR CENTRE



**Hill End**  
**Phone 6337 8206**

Situated in Hill End, the centre has an extensive exhibition of artefacts from the town's goldrush era, including a replica Cobb & Co. stagecoach. The shop has souvenirs and gold samples. Open 7 days, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm (closed Christmas Day).

## 13 Mount Canobolas

STATE CONSERVATION AREA 1673 ha



Camping fee level 1

**Highlights** The extinct volcano of Mt Canobolas rises to 1395 metres, the highest point between the Blue Mountains and Perth. Its slopes support some of the most diverse vegetation communities in the region and have many intriguing rock formations.

**Activities** There are seven walking tracks, a number of fantastic lookouts and camping at Federal Falls (car-based, not suitable for caravans).

**Access** 17 km south-west of Orange via the Canobolas Way or Cargo Road.

**Bathurst, phone 6332 7640**

## 14 Mount Kaputar

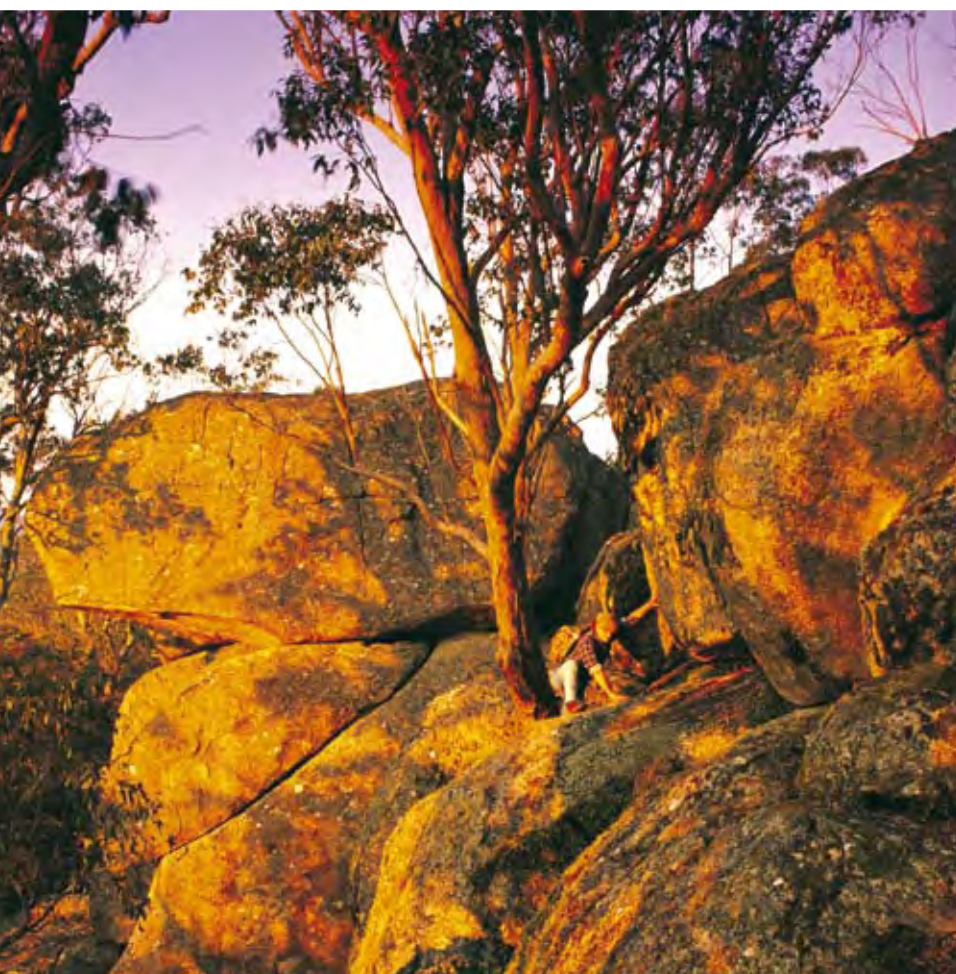
NATIONAL PARK 51,384 ha



Camping fee level 2

**Highlights** Seventeen million years of erosion have sculpted the now-extinct Nandewar Volcano, forming an island of wilderness rising 1200 metres above the surrounding plains. Rocky outcrops offer breathtaking views while a diverse range of vegetation from semi-arid woodland to wet sclerophyll forest and subalpine communities cling to the mountain slopes. The region is a haven for threatened bats, birds, and a unique large pink slug, which often appears after rain.

**Activities** Walking tracks range from short easy strolls to more difficult day walks or overnight treks. Picnic at Dawsons Spring in the subalpine area, take an easy walk along the Nature Trail



through tall gums and snow grass, or walk to the summit of Mt Kaputar. Car-based camping is available at Dawsons Spring or in the stringybark forest at Bark Hut. Camping areas have free barbecues, hot showers, toilets and fireplaces (bring your own firewood). Three cabins are available at Dawsons Spring (bookings required).

Sawn Rocks, Australia's best example of the geological formation known as organ-piping, is in the northern section of the park (not accessible from the main part of the park). It's an easy walk and has free gas barbecues, picnic tables and toilets. Waa Gorge offers a more difficult half-day walk.

**Access** The main part of the park is 50 km east of Narrabri on Mt Kaputar Road (head south-east out of Narrabri on Maitland Street). The road has unsealed sections and caravans are not permitted within the park as the road is steep and narrow. Sawn Rocks is 30 minutes from Narrabri on the Bingara Road (sealed road), and Waa Gorge is 50 minutes from Narrabri along the Terry Hie Hie Road (unsealed sections). Access to Waa Gorge is through several gates on private property and may be closed after rainfall.

**Narrabri, phone 6792 7300**

## 15 Mullion Range

STATE CONSERVATION AREA 1025 ha



**Highlights** The striking combination of steep mountains and plateau areas forms part of one of the Bathurst/Orange region's extinct volcano systems. Native animals include gliders, possums, numerous bird species, and platypus, which are well established in Summer Hill Creek.

**Activities** There is a picnic area at Fourth Crossing. Take the Water Race walking track from Fourth Crossing to discover remnants of the area's 1860s goldmining boom. Two walks along Summer Hill Creek feature splendid waterfall views.

**Access** 17 km north-north-east of Orange via the Ophir Road.

**Bathurst, phone 6332 7640**

## 16 Munghorn Gap

NATURE RESERVE 5934 ha



**Highlights** 164 species of bird have been recorded in the reserve, including the endangered regent honeyeater, attracting birdwatchers from around the state.

**Activities** The Castle Rock walking track offers an easy 8-km return walk with stunning views from the sandstone 'pagoda' rock formations at the end of the track. The Moolarben picnic area (day use only) has tables, barbecues and a toilet.

**Access** 45 km north-east of Mudgee. Entry is via sealed roads off the Mudgee—Wollar road.

**Mudgee, phone 6372 7199**

## 17 Nangar

NATIONAL PARK 9196 ha



**Camping fee level** 1

**Highlights** The horseshoe-shaped red silt-stone cliff-lines of the Nangar Murga range are a landmark of the central west's rolling plains. The rocky slopes running down to Terrara Creek and rich forests form an important wildlife refuge in a landscape that has been largely cleared.

**Activities** Camping is available at Terrara Creek 7 km into the park along Dipping Rock Road. Walks along the escarpment offer views out over patchwork farmland dotted with rocky remnants of natural bushland. Some areas of the park are accessible by 2WD during dry periods, but 4WD is recommended for reaching Mt Nangar lookout. Horse riding requires a permit.

**Access** 50 km south west of Orange. Best access is via the Escort Way (Eugowra—Orange road) (turn off 10 km north of Eugowra).

**Forbes, phone 6851 4429**

## 18 Narrandera

NATURE RESERVE 71 ha



**Highlights** Beautiful open red gum forest on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River. The reserve provides important habitat for koalas.

**Activities** Explore the forest, stroll along the banks of the river and look for koalas in the tall red gums. A koala count is held every year in April and volunteers are always needed to assist — contact the National Parks office for details.

**Access** Immediately south of Narrandera, through Narrandera Common.

**Griffith, phone 6966 8100**

## ACCOMMODATION

### Mt Kaputar Cabins

Mt Kaputar National Park is a place of glorious trees — eucalypts, wattles, cypress — wilderness and spectacular open views.

If you long to stay a while, the Dawsons Spring cabins are available for hire. Self-contained cabins comfortably sleep up to six, perfect for families and groups, and they're a great winter getaway with views of misty snow gums and indoor wood fires.

Activities in the park include bushwalking, abseiling, bird watching and rock climbing, and enjoying some of Australia's beautiful native flora and fauna.

Dawsons Spring Nature Trail gives a great introduction to the park and can be combined with a walk to the summit of Mt Kaputar — passing through varied sub alpine vegetation to a scenic lookout.

Staying in the cabins will also give an opportunity to view the night sky, and see why this region is a world centre of astronomy.

The Kaputar National Park Cabins can be booked up to six months ahead.

**For more information and bookings:**  
**Phone: 02 6792 7300**



Dawsons Spring Cabins.  
Photo: B.Hlavica/DECCW





## Pilliga Forest DISCOVERY CENTRE

NEW  
CENTRE

Baradine, Phone 6843 4011

Before you venture into the Pilliga, don't miss the Pilliga Forest Discovery Centre. Uncover the hidden secrets of the Pilliga Forest and the stories of yesteryear with this fun and entertaining exhibition. Located in Baradine this stunning architecturally designed centre will enthrall visitors of all ages. Featuring the latest in interpretation displays and technology your interactive 'walk in the forest' will reveal fauna, flora and Aboriginal cultural heritage — the Pilliga like you've never seen it before. Open 7 days, 9am–5pm weekdays, 10:00am–5pm weekends (closed Christmas Day).

## 19 Oolambeyan

NATIONAL PARK 21,851 ha



**Highlights** Oolambeyan was once famous for its merino stud, and these days it offers an insight into the pastoral history of the region. The homestead is surrounded by gardens and overlooks Boree woodlands and open grassland plains. The park is home to threatened birds such as the superb parrot and plains-wanderer, as well as many other interesting animals and plants.

**Activities** Wander around the homestead and gardens, shearing shed, ram sheds and other historic buildings. Watch the woodland birds and kangaroos. Contact the Griffith office prior to visiting.

BELOW: Join an Aboriginal ranger on a *Discovery* tour of the Sandstone Caves of Pilliga Nature Reserve. Photo: Gecko Photographics, courtesy Tourism NSW



**Access** 30 km south of Carrathool and the Sturt Highway, off the Conargo Carrathool road by minor roads (unsealed and impassable after rain).

Griffith, phone 6966 8100

## 20 Pilliga Forest

NATURE RESERVE, NATIONAL PARKS, STATE CONSERVATION AREAS, ABORIGINAL AREAS 236,873 ha



**Highlights** At about 500,000 ha, the Pilliga Forest is the largest remaining native forest in Australia west of the Great Divide. Nearly half the Pilliga Forest is managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service to protect this unique area including the habitat of declining woodland bird species and a large koala population.

**Activities** Follow the bird route through the Pilliga Forest to observe some of the 240 bird species recorded, including barking owls, turquoise parrots and other threatened species.

Enjoy the many forest drives. Picnic facilities are available at the Salt Caves. The Sandstone Caves are a special place for the Gamilaraay people and a good place to experience Aboriginal culture. Directions to access the Sandstone Caves are required as the area is not sign posted (at the request of Aboriginal Elders). The best way to experience the Sandstone Caves is on an Aboriginal Discovery guided tour.

**Access** Located between Narrabri and Coonabarabran on the Newell Highway, the Pilliga Forest has a complex system of tracks and roads. It is recommended that advice is obtained before visiting the area. Many roads in the area are unsealed and poorly marked. Prior to your visit, contact the Discovery Centre between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm weekends, for further information and directions.

Pilliga Forest Discovery Centre, phone 6843 4011

## 21 The Rock

NATURE RESERVE 347 ha



**Highlights** Known as Kengal to the local Wiradjuri people, The Rock towers 250 metres over the surrounding countryside, and is thought to have been a site for initiation ceremonies. The reserve is an island of natural habitat for native animals, including the turquoise

parrot and glossy black cockatoo.

**Activities** If you're an energetic bushwalker you'll enjoy the climb to the top of the 3-km Yerong Nature Trail where, on a clear day, you can see Mt Kosciuszko and the Victorian Alps. The walk passes through a variety of vegetation communities, with signs guiding you through the changes and pointing out highlights. The picnic area on the lower slopes has toilets, a covered table, a gas barbecue area and a large carpark. There are no camping facilities but accommodation is available at The Rock village, other neighbouring towns and Wagga Wagga.

**Access** 30 km south-west of Wagga Wagga off the Olympic Highway. A short all-weather, unsealed road connects the picnic facilities and carpark to the Lockhart Road.

Griffith, phone 6966 8100

## 22 Turon

NATIONAL PARK 2778 ha



Camping fee level 1

**Highlights** The open eucalypt forest and river oaks of historic Turon Valley were once the site of one of the state's major goldfields, and the area is rich in colonial and Aboriginal heritage. The river offers trout fishing (licence required).

**Activities** There are opportunities for remote bushwalking (no formal tracks) and there's car-based camping at Woolshed Flat and The Diggings. The river offers swimming and canoeing when the water is high.

**Access** 150 km north-west of Sydney, via Capertee on the Lochaber Road (unsealed, 4WD).

Blackheath, phone 4787 8877

## 23 Warrumbungle

NATIONAL PARK 23,198 ha



Camping fee levels 1 2 3

**Highlights** The combination of forested ridges, rocky spires and domes, deep gorges and plenty of camping and visitor facilities make Warrumbungle one of the state's most popular national parks. On the second Saturday of November each year visitors travel from

all over the country for the outdoor Crooked Mountain Concert, featuring top line artists in the best natural outdoor venue in the Australia.

**Activities** Warrumbungle NP offers a great variety of walking trails to suit the interests of all visitors. The adventurous walker should be sure to experience the iconic walk of the park: the Breadknife Grand High Tops Walk. White Gum Lookout is a 1 km return bitumen track suitable for prams and wheelchairs, giving panoramic views of the range. Gurianawa track is another easy access bitumen loop from the visitor centre and leads down to Spirey Creek with views of the remnant volcanoes, Siding Spring Observatory and a chance meeting with resident kangaroos. Walking tracks vary in grade and length — several are easy and well formed while others are steep and rough. Picnic areas are dotted throughout the park, with electric barbecues at Canyon Picnic area.

The volcanic cliffs are popular for rock climbing (not permitted on the Breadknife); please register your climb at the Visitor Centre. Discovery walks, talks and tours are available in autumn, winter and spring school holidays and tours can be pre-arranged throughout the year to suit the interests of schools and groups. The Discovery program includes Aboriginal cultural activities guided by local Gamilaroi people, bird and flora walks, spotlight walks and a number of special children's activities.

Camping is available at Camp Blackman (facilities include hot showers and powered sites), Pincham (for backpack camping) and Wambelong. Camp Walaay and the Woolshed (undercover camping) are group camping areas (bookings essential phone 6825 4364). There are wheelchair accessible toilets at Camp Blackman, Canyon Picnic area, Split Rock, the Woolshed and Visitor Centre.

**Access** 35 km west of Coonabarabran on John Renshaw Parkway, or 80 km north-east of Gilgandra via Gumin Road. A daily fee of \$7 for park use applies.

**Visitor Centre, phone 6825 4364**  
**Coonabarabran, phone 6842 1311**

BELOW: Park your car or pitch your tent at Pincham, the starting point for the Breadknife and Grand High Tops walk in Warrumbungle National Park.  
Photo: R.Scott/DECCW



## 24 Weddin Mountains

NATIONAL PARK 8361 ha



**Highlights** The striking crescent of cliffs and ridged gullies is reputed to be a bushrangers' haunt — Ben Halls Cave is named for one of the area's most infamous rogues.

**Activities** Take in the panoramic views from Eualdrie Trig starting at either Ben Halls campground or Holy Camp. Take a short walk up to Ben Halls Cave from Ben Halls campground or visit historic Seatons Farm. Picnic, camping facilities and toilets are provided at Holy Camp and at Ben Halls camping/picnic area.

**Access** Holy Camp is 19 km south-west of Grenfell. Ben Halls campground and Seatons Farm is 32 km west of Grenfell, with clear signs off the Mid Western Highway.

**Forbes, phone 6851 4429**

## 25 Yuranighs Aboriginal Grave

HISTORIC SITE 2 ha



**Highlights** Yuranigh was an Aboriginal guide for surveyor Thomas Mitchell between 1845 and 1846, and the site of his grave is a unique combination of Aboriginal and European burial customs.

**Activities** The headstone (which was erected in 1900 when Mitchell's original stone had fallen to the ground) is surrounded by four trees carved according to Wiradjuri tradition. There's a gate about 600 m from the site; make sure you close it after you pass through.

**Access** 5 km south of Molong off the Mitchell Highway.

**Bathurst, phone 6332 7640**

## Warrumbungle National Park

VISITOR CENTRE

**Coonabarabran, phone 6825 4364**

Located in the central part of the park, the visitor centre is a newly refurbished attraction which highlights the outstanding values of the park and provides an enhanced experience for visitors. The centre provides information on camping and walking. The interpretive display shows the Indigenous and European history of the area and the geology, flora and fauna of the park and surrounding area. Open daily 9am — 4pm (except Christmas, Boxing and New Years Days); there is a range of gifts, books, maps, basic camping supplies and tea and coffee.

## HELP US

## CONTROL PESTS

Introduced species such as lantana and foxes are one of the greatest threats to our native flora and fauna. DECCW undertakes many pest animal control and bush regeneration programs. Many of these are undertaken with the help of volunteer groups. Here are some ways you can help as well:

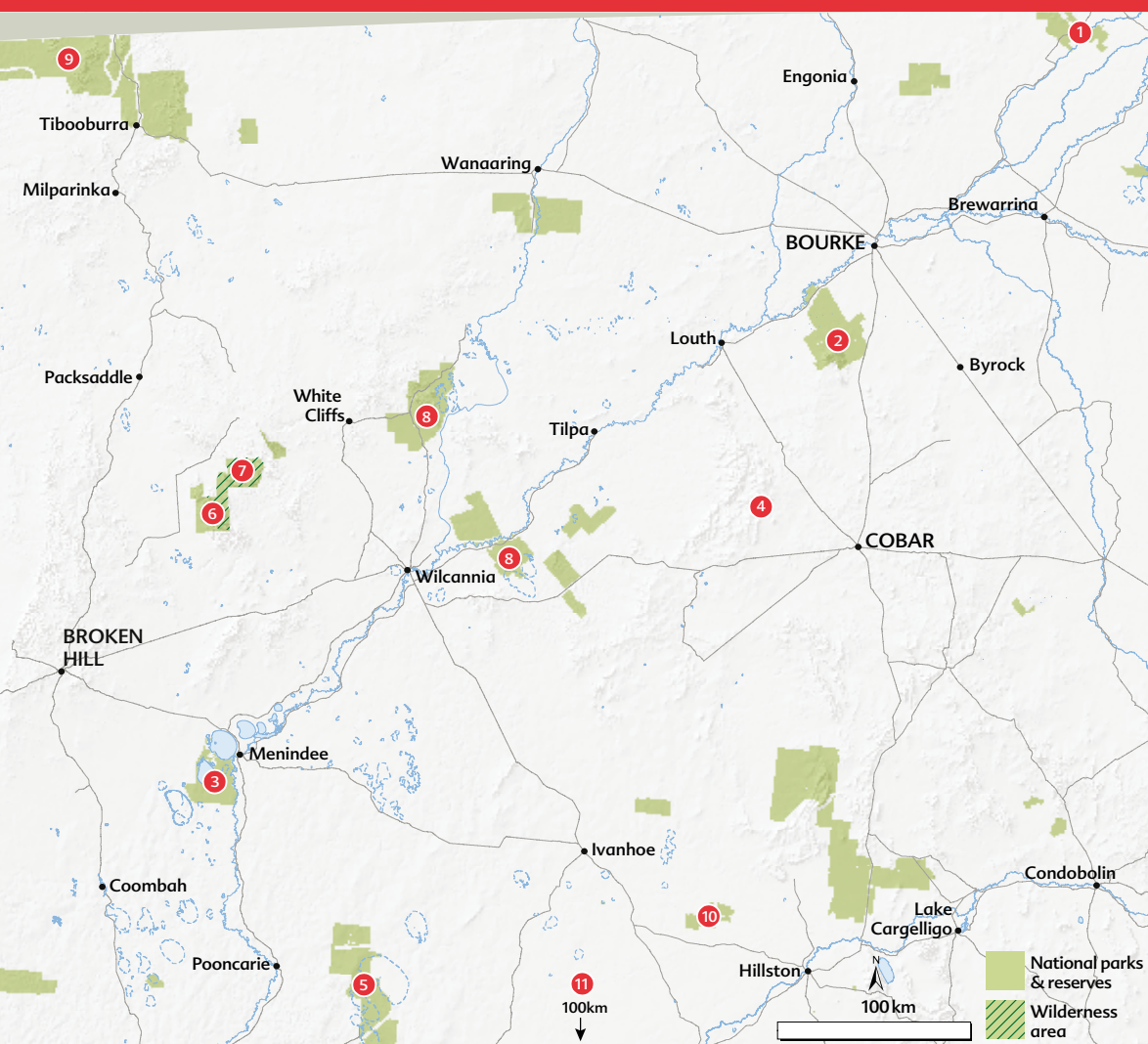
- ▶ Don't dump unwanted animals (e.g. kittens, dogs, chickens) in the bush.
- ▶ Make sure your pet cat or dog is de-sexed and micro-chipped.
- ▶ Keep cats and dogs indoors at night, especially at dusk and dawn when many native animals are active.
- ▶ Watch for new pests in your area (e.g. cane toads, fire ants, new weed species).
- ▶ Report sightings to 1300 361 967.
- ▶ Minimise disturbance to flora and fauna by keeping to walking tracks.
- ▶ Don't dump garden waste (e.g. weeds, grass clippings, prunings) in the bush.
- ▶ Protect the bush in your area by joining a landcare or bush regeneration group.
- ▶ Choose plants for your garden that won't become weed problems in the future. Your local nursery can advise you on the most suitable plants for your area, including alternatives to invasive species such as lantana hybrids, climbing asparagus and Formosa lily. Refer to booklets such as *Grow Me Instead* ([www.sydneyparks.org.au/docs/Grow-Me-Instead.pdf](http://www.sydneyparks.org.au/docs/Grow-Me-Instead.pdf)) when choosing plants for your garden.





# Outback NSW

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REGION

Blue skies change to a blazing sunset above an endless plain as millions of stars begin to sparkle in the darkening sky. People have stood in this place throughout human history, witnessing this magnificent display. Outback parks protect a landscape of open desert, sparkling lakes and ancient stone sculpted by wind and time. Aboriginal rock art lines the caves and overhangs of Mt Grenfell and Mutawintji. River red gums shade the creek beds, giant red kangaroos roam the plains, birds flock to the precious wetlands. It's a place like no other and one you won't soon forget.

**More information:** [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/outback](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/outback)



Stay at the recently-refurbished **Shearers Quarters** in Mungo National Park.



Discover the rich history of **Kinchega National Park** at the Kinchega Woolshed.



View breathtaking scenery on the **Byngnano Range** walk in Mutawintji National Park.



Explore the drama and beauty of the Outback landscape in **Sturt National Park**.



See remarkable Aboriginal paintings on the rock overhangs of **Mt Grenfell Historic Site**.



Enjoy authentic bush camping at Coach and Horses Campground in **Paroo-Darling National Park**.

**FAR LEFT:** Experience the splendid space and solitude of Outback NSW on a self-guided loop drive through Sturt National Park.

Photo: courtesy Tourism NSW

**LEFT:** Stroll the boardwalk through the ancient landscape of Mungo National Park for rewarding views of the Walls of China, a 33-km-long crescent of sand and clay sculpted by wind and time.

Photo: D.Fuchs, courtesy Tourism NSW





## 1 Culgoa

NATIONAL PARK 36,370 ha



Camping fee level 1

**Highlights** Sit in the shade of the coolibah trees flanking the floodplain of the Culgoa River and watch the passing bustards, falcons, honeyeaters and cockatoos or the kangaroos and emus on the open grass plains.

**Activities** Walk along the riverbank through coolibah woodlands or over sandhills carpeted in wildflowers following spring rains. There's a small camping and picnic area suitable for car-based and caravan camping (few facilities, phone for details).

**Access** 100 km north of Brewarrina or 180 km north-east of Bourke. Unsealed dry-weather roads only.

**Bourke, phone 6872 2744**

BELOW: Discover the timeless desert landscape of Mungo National Park, where wind and rain have uncovered evidence of human occupation stretching back over 40,000 years. Photo: D.Fuchs, courtesy of Tourism NSW

BELOW INSET: Experience the romance of 19th century Outback NSW on a visit to Kinchega Woolshed in Kinchega National Park, once a thriving sheep station that saw more than six million sheep shorn over the course of a century. Photo: A.Buzzone, courtesy of Tourism NSW.

## 2 Gundabooka

NATIONAL PARK 89,403 ha



Camping fee level 2

**Highlights** Mt Gundabooka rises to 500 metres among the rust-coloured cliffs, gorges and hills of the Gundabooka Range. The region is of great significance to the local Ngiyampaa people and the range has a history of ceremonial gatherings and rock art.

**Activities** Dry Tank has a small camping and picnic area that's accessible by car and is large enough for a caravan. A 5-km walking track leads from the site through mulga woodlands to nearby Little Mountain, where you can look out over the northern escarpment of the Gundabooka Range. There's accommodation available for small groups in the six-room Belah shearers' quarters complex (facilities including hot showers), or the Governess's Cottage. A new day-use area is open at Bennetts Gorge with barbecues, toilets and picnic tables. An easy 1-km-return Valley of the Eagle (Ngana Malyan) walking track leads to the base of Mt Gundabooka.

**Access** 50 km south of Bourke off the Kidman Way (dry weather only). Use of generators is not permitted.

**Bourke, phone 6872 2744**

## 3 Kinchega

NATIONAL PARK 44,260 ha



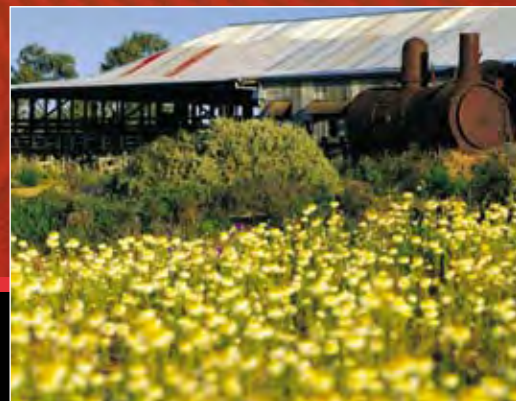
Camping fee level 2

**Highlights** Meander amongst the massive river red gums that silhouette the Darling River or witness history unfold as you wander along the lake's dry shores and over the red sand dunes, all of which have withstood the test of time; enduring droughts and floods. Sit back and relax and enjoy watching the birds flit past, the kangaroos and emus, and where the red sand reaches up and touches the clear blue sky.

**Activities** Explore the Aboriginal sites and European structures, such as the Kinchega Woolshed. Car-based and caravan camping are available at the rest area near Lake Cawndilla, beside Emu Lake or along the river. You can also stay in the old shearers' quarters (bookings required).

**Access** 111 km south-east of Broken Hill along the road to Menindee. Unsealed roads, closed when wet. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Broken Hill, phone 08 8080 3200**



## 4 Mount Grenfell

HISTORIC SITE 1357 ha



**Highlights** Hundreds of Aboriginal paintings in reds, yellows and ochres colour the rock overhangs of Mt Grenfell. In 2004 this historic site was handed back to the Ngiyampaa people, who now lease it to the NSW Government.

**Activities** The three main art sites are within easy walking distance of the carpark, or you can take the 5-km Ngiyampaa walk, which reveals the breathtaking scenery of the area.

**Access** 40 km west of Cobar along the Barrier Highway, then 32 km of unsealed road north (impassable after rain).

**Cobar, phone 6836 2692**

## 5 Mungo

NATIONAL PARK 120,000 ha



**Camping fee level** 2

**Highlights** The Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area, with Mungo National Park at its centre, maintains a continuous record of human occupation stretching back well over 40,000 years. Rain and wind have uncovered ancient fireplaces and hearths, as well as calcified plant matter, stone tools and animal bones. At the 33-km-long crescent of the Walls of China, erosion has sculpted the sand and clay into dramatic formations. Mungo is jointly managed by National Parks and representatives from the Aboriginal Traditional Owner groups.

**Activities** The visitor centre is open every day. A self-guided 70-km driving tour provides an opportunity to explore a large area of the park. Stay at the shearers' quarters (bookings required), Main Camp (car-based and caravan) or Belah Camp (car-based). A boardwalk giving access to views of the Walls of China is wheelchair-accessible. Short walking tracks have signs that highlight a variety of features within the park.

**Access** 110 km north-east of Mildura via Buronga along the Arumpo Road, or 147 km north-west of Balranald. All roads are unsealed and are impassable after rain. A detailed information package is available from the Buronga office or the website. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Buronga, phone 03 5021 8900**

## 6 Mutawintji

HISTORIC SITE 486 ha



**Highlights** This site, which in 1998 was the first to be returned to its traditional Aboriginal owners, contains one of the best collections of Aboriginal rock art in NSW.

**Activities** Entry is by accredited commercial tour operators. Please contact the Broken Hill Visitor Information Centre (08 8088 3560) for information on commercial tour operators with access to the site. Walking tracks are of medium grade and unsuitable for wheelchairs.

**Access** 130 km north-east of Broken Hill; turn east off the road to Tibooburra. In wet weather the road closes, so check on conditions before travelling.

**Broken Hill, phone 08 8080 3200**

## 7 Mutawintji

NATIONAL PARK 68,912 ha



**Camping fee level** 2

**Highlights** The rugged, mulga-clad Byngnano Range is dissected by colourful gorges, rockpools and creek beds lined with red gums. Scattered among the caves and overhangs are galleries of Aboriginal rock art and engravings. The park was returned to its traditional owners in 1998 and is held on their behalf by the Mutawintji Local Aboriginal Land Council.

**Activities** Car-based and caravan camping are available at Homestead Creek (no bookings — first in, first served; no fuel or firewood available). Backpack camping is permitted within the Mutawintji Wilderness Area, with self-registration required (forms available from the Broken Hill National Parks office). An Aboriginal Discovery program runs during each school holiday period except summer.

**Access** 130 km north-east of Broken Hill; turn east off the road to Tibooburra. In wet weather the road closes, so check on conditions before travelling.

**Broken Hill, phone 08 8080 3200**

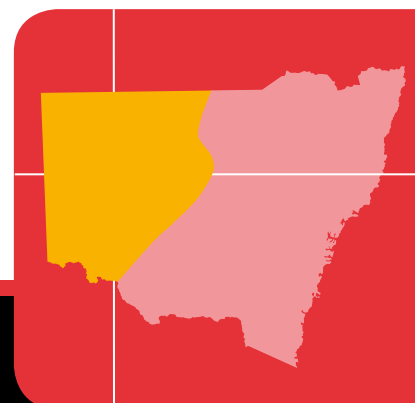
## STAYING SAFE IN THE OUTBACK

In outback regions you need to be particularly aware of safety.

Some tips are:

- ▶ Tell someone your travel plans before setting out.
- ▶ Be prepared for unsealed roads that may be impassable after rain — check road conditions with local national parks, Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA), NRMA and tourism offices before setting out (see back cover for national parks contact details).
- ▶ Make sure your vehicle is in good mechanical condition, and always carry extra fuel, two spare tyres, and wheel-changing equipment.
- ▶ Take extra food and particularly EXTRA WATER.
- ▶ If you break down or become stranded, remain with your vehicle. It is much easier for rescuers to see you in a vehicle than on your own.
- ▶ Avoid visiting in summer due to the extreme heat; visits are best planned for winter or spring.

For more safety tips see pages 2, 33, 39, 43, 65 and 71.





## Paroo-Darling National Park

VISITOR CENTRE

**Paroo-Darling National Park**  
White Cliffs, phone 08 8083 7900

The visitor centre at White Cliffs is your starting point for discovering the Paroo—Darling National Park. Take your time and learn more about our river people, river places and river life. The 'clean, green' building is solar-powered and energy efficient to minimise its impact on the environment. Open between 8.30 am and 4.30 pm.

## Coach and Horses Campground on the Darling River at Wilga

**Camping fee level** 2

See the stars amidst a dark and unblemished night sky at the Coach and Horses campground at Wilga. Enjoy an authentic bush camping experience, beside the Darling River that once enticed early settlers and brought the river boats here. Bring your own drinking water and food. Facilities include gas barbecues and pit toilets.

BELOW: When water is plentiful birds flock to the wetlands of Lake Peery in Paroo-Darling National Park.  
Photo: S.Bayliss, courtesy of Outback NSW Tourism

## 8 Paroo-Darling

NATIONAL PARK 178,053 ha



**Camping fee level** 2

**Highlights** After your visit to the Paroo-Darling National Park Visitor Centre at White Cliffs, travel out to the national park. Walk to the beat of the timeless pulse of Peery Lake, as it cycles through intermittent flood and prolonged dry periods. Once filled, the lake can hold water for up to three years, and the result is a spectacular inland playground for a myriad of water birds. When dry, Peery Lake is the only location in NSW where artesian mound springs are found in a lakebed. Take the time to stop and enjoy the surroundings.

**Activities** Coach and Horse Campground on the Darling River at Wilga offers day use and camping. Bring your own drinking water and food. Facilities include gas BBQs and pit toilets. You can also drive through the park, stopping to observe the abundant wildlife, or walk along one of the many tree-lined creeks.

Phone 08 8083 7900 to book an Aboriginal Discovery tour.

**Access** The park is in a number of separate sections and can be accessed from several points: 80 km north of Wilcannia along the Wanaaring Road, 60 km east of Wilcannia on the East Road to Bourke, and 20 km east of White Cliffs along the Mandalay Road. Roads may be closed when wet.

**White Cliffs, phone 08 8083 7900**

## 9 Sturt

NATIONAL PARK 325,329 ha



**Camping fee level** 2

**Highlights** An enormous arid landscape of space and solitude. The rolling red-sand dunes of the Strzelecki Desert ripple through the western section, graduating past surprising wetlands surrounded by white sands. Flat-topped 'mesas' and fantastic views characterise the central jump-up country. Remnant gidgee woodland, the catchment system of the ephemeral Twelve-Mile Creek, and gibber and grass-covered plains dominate the east, while 450-million-year-old granite tors surrounding Tibooburra form part of the southern boundary of the park.

**Activities** Enjoy the self-guided loop drives accessible by 2WD or go 4WD trekking along the Middle Road, passing through uniquely diverse landscapes with lookouts along the way providing magnificent views. Explore the walks at Fort Grey, Olive Downs, Dead Horse Gully and to the summit of Mt Wood — most are easy to moderate and allow for a short loop walk of 1–3 hours. The four 2WD-accessible campsites are equipped with free gas barbecues and toilets and are suitable for caravans, but bring your own water and please respect the 'no wood-fire' policy. Mt Wood Historic Homestead and shearers' quarters provide accommodation; both have excellent facilities (call for details). The best time to visit the park is between April and October. The temperature sizzles to well above 40°C in summer, but winter nights can drop to below zero.

**Access** 335 km north of Broken Hill along the partly sealed Silver City Highway and 430 km west of Bourke (unsealed). Check the conditions after rain as roads may be closed. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Tibooburra Visitor Centre,**  
phone 08 8091 3308

BELOW: The Sturt Desert pea, part of the unique flora of outback NSW, found in Sturt National Park.  
Photo courtesy Tourism NSW



## 10 Willandra NATIONAL PARK 19,386 ha



**Camping fee level** 2

**Highlights** Willandra Station was once famous for its wool, and these days it offers an insight into the pastoral history of the region. The homestead, surrounded by gardens and overlooking peaceful Willandra Creek, has been restored to its former glory. The grasslands and black box-lined creek beds to the west of the homestead are home to kangaroos, emus and ground-nesting birds.

**Activities** Wander around the homestead and gardens, shearing shed, ram shed and other historic buildings. Watch the waterbirds and kangaroos, or the sun setting over huge horizons. Car-based and caravan camping are available near the homestead, or you can stay in the cottage and men's quarters (bookings required, phone 6966 8100).

**Access** 64 km north-west of Hillston off Mossiel Road (unsealed and impassable after rain). Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

**Griffith, phone 6966 8100**

## Tibooburra

VISITOR CENTRE

**Briscoe Street, Tibooburra, phone 08 8091 3308**

Take a sneak preview of Sturt National Park and the surrounding area's natural and cultural history. Heritage items from the area's pastoral and mining history are showcased next door in the old Tibooburra Courthouse Museum (free entry). Walking track guides, tour drive guides, displays and road and weather condition updates are available. Open weekdays between 8.30 am and 4.30 pm. The office is closed on Christmas Day.

## 11 Yanga

NATIONAL PARK 76,000 ha



**Camping fee level** 1

**Highlights** One of the state's newest parks. Discover natural, pastoral and Aboriginal heritage. Picnic with your family, or unwind for a week and enjoy a choice of settings, complemented by an array of new visitor facilities. Enjoy the tranquil Murrumbidgee River and massive red gums. This changing landscape provides habitat for an array of fauna including endangered species and over 150 kinds of birds.

**Activities** Take a walk around the historic Yanga Homestead and decorative garden. Discover more of Yanga's history in the exhibition 'Yanga People-Lake-Country' housed in what was the Cook's Cottage adjacent to the Homestead. Visit the century old Yanga

Woolshed which now houses an interpretive display describing historical aspects of Yanga Station and the flood plain. The riverside picnic spot is great for groups to shelter under the large covered barbeque area. There are two free campgrounds. Mamanga Campground is on the bank of the Murrumbidgee River and offers car-based and caravan camping. The Willows Campground is in an open woodland setting with car-based camping and a picnic area with electric barbeques great for birdwatchers.

**Access** 8 km south east of Balranald, turn off the Sturt Highway into the Yanga rest area and travel a further 2 km to the Park Office and Homestead (open 8:30 — 4:30 daily). The woolshed is located 5 km south west of Balranald on the Windomal Road. The roads are unsealed and trafficable after light rainfall. Detailed campground information is available from the park office.

**Yanga, phone 03 5020 1764**  
**Hay, phone 6990 8200**

**NEW PARK LISTED**

## ACCOMMODATION

### Mount Wood Historic Homestead

After a day of exploring one of the largest parks in NSW, it's great to return to comfortable accommodation — such as the heritage-listed Mt Wood Homestead.

Situated in Sturt National Park, the homestead has been sensitively restored to provide modern comfort in this semi-desert environment.

You'll want to take time to explore, walk, photograph or just to connect with the environment, appreciating its strength and its fragility. There are flood plains dotted with trees, rocky gorges, sand hills — and the dog fence, the longest fence in

the world. You can expect to see wallaroos, kangaroos, emus, eagles, falcons and parrots.

Explore the flat-topped mesas, known as the 'jump ups', which rise above the surrounding plains, a brilliant place to watch the sun set.

And by staying at Mount Wood you can be up early to watch the sun rise, one of the quintessential outback experiences.

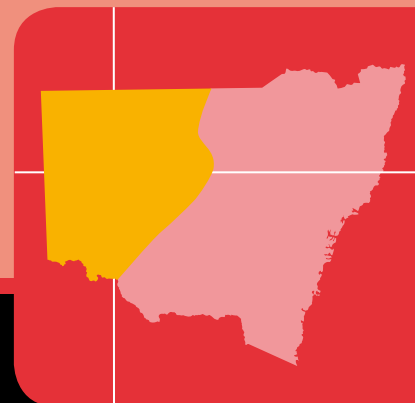
All this is accessible from the homestead, which also features an outdoor pastoral museum. The park has several other

unique accommodation options, including remote Narcowla Hut, the newly refurbished Olive Downs Singlemen's Quarters or the Mount Wood Shearers' Quarters. The Shearers' Quarters offer communal living with shared facilities — a great budget option for groups and for families. It's an experience the kids will never forget.

Camping under the stars is another option — there are camping grounds at Dead Horse Gully, Olive Downs and Fort Grey.

**For more information and bookings**  
**Phone: 08 8091 3308**

Photos: B.Hlavica/DECCW





# Contact details

## ENVIRONMENT LINE

Phone 1300 361 967 or 02 9995 5550  
Email: [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au)  
Web: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

## NORTHERN RIVERS

### ALSTONVILLE

(8.30am–4.30pm Mon–Fri)  
Colonial Arcade, 75 Main St,  
phone 6627 0200

### BYRON BAY

(8.30am–4.30pm Mon–Fri)  
Tallow Beach Rd, phone 6620 9300

### GRAFTON

(8.30am–4.30pm Mon–Fri)  
Level 3, 49 Victoria St,  
phone 6641 1500

### KYOGLE

(8.30am–4.30pm Mon–Fri)  
136 Summerland Way,  
phone 6632 0000

### LORD HOWE ISLAND

(8.30am–4.30pm Mon–Fri)  
Lord Howe Island Board,  
phone 6563 2066

### MURWILLUMBAH

(8.30am–4.30pm Mon–Fri) Cnr Alma St  
& Tweed Valley Way (shared with World  
Heritage Rainforest Centre),  
phone 6670 8600

## NEW ENGLAND TABLELANDS

### ARMIDALE

(8.30am–4.30pm Mon–Fri)  
145 Miller St, phone 6738 9100

### GLEN INNES

(8.30am–4.30pm Mon–Fri)  
68 Church St, phone 6739 0700

### TENTERFIELD

(8.30am–4.30pm Mon–Fri)  
10 Miles St, phone 6736 4298

### WALCHA

(9am–4pm Mon–Fri)  
188W North St, phone 6777 4700

## HUNTER & MID NORTH COAST

### ARAKOON

(9am–4.30pm daily, closed Christmas)  
Trial Bay Gaol, Arakoon State  
Conservation Area,  
phone 6566 6168

### BULGA

(9.30am–4pm Tue, Wed & Thu only)  
Hunter Range Office, 2156 Putty Rd,  
phone 6574 5555

### COFFS HARBOUR

(8.30am–4.30pm Mon–Fri)  
32 Marina Drive, phone 6652 0900

### DORRIGO

(8.30am–4.30pm Mon–Fri, 9–4.30  
weekends, closed Christmas)  
Dorrigo Rainforest Centre,  
Dome Rd, phone 6657 2309

### GLOUCESTER

(8.30am–4.30pm Mon–Fri)  
Church Street, phone 6538 5300

### NELSON BAY

(8.30am–4.30pm Mon–Fri)  
12b Teramby Rd, phone 4984 8200

### NEWCASTLE

(8.30am–4.30pm Mon–Fri)  
Hunter Wetlands Centre, Shortland,  
phone 4955 0038

### PACIFIC PALMS

(8.30am–4.30pm Mon–Fri)  
Booti Booti National Park,  
phone 6591 0300

### PORT MACQUARIE

(9am–4.30pm Mon–Fri)  
152 Horton St, phone 6586 8300

### SCONE

(8.30am–4.30pm Mon–Fri)  
137 Kelly Street, phone 6540 2300

## SYDNEY & SURROUNDS

### AUDLEY

8.30am–4.30pm seven days,  
school holidays and public holidays,  
closed Christmas Day  
Visitor Centre, Royal National Park,  
Sir Betram Stevens Drive,  
phone 9542 0648

### BLACKHEATH

(9am–4.30pm daily,  
closed Christmas Day)  
The Heritage Centre, Govetts Leap Rd,  
phone 4787 8877

### GOSFORD

(8.30am–4.30pm Mon–Fri)  
Suites 36–38, 207 Albany St North  
phone 4320 4200,  
Camp bookings: phone 4320 4203  
(9am–3pm)

### HARTLEY

(10am–4.30pm daily,  
closed Christmas Eve and Day)  
Hartley Historic Site, phone 6355 2117

### HAWKESBURY

(8.30am–4.30pm Mon–Fri)  
Scheyville National Park, Scheyville Rd,  
phone 4572 3100

### KURNELL

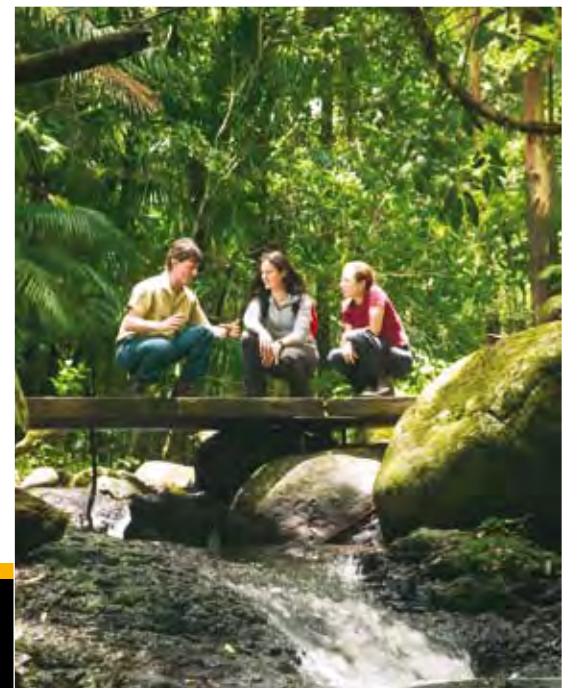
(11am–3pm Mon–Fri, 10am–4.30pm  
weekends and public holidays,  
closed Christmas Day)

The Discovery Centre, Botany Bay  
National Park, Cape Solander Drive,  
phone 9668 2000

### SYDNEY NORTH

Enquires re Ku-ring-gai Chase National  
Park (including Barrenjoey) Garigal  
National Park, Lane Cove National Park,  
Marramarra National Park, Berowra  
Valley Regional Park  
Information Centre  
(10am–4pm daily except Christmas Day,  
closed 12–12.30pm)  
Bobbin Inn, Ku-ring-gai Chase Road,  
Bobbin Head, phone 9472 8949

BELOW: Border Ranges National Park.  
Photo: H. Lund, courtesy Tourism NSW



*Discovery activities:*

Kalkari Discovery Centre  
(9am-5pm daily except Christmas Day)

Ku-ring-gai Chase Road, Mt Colah,  
phone 9472 9300

**SYDNEY HARBOUR/LA PEROUSE:**

Enquiries re Sydney Harbour National  
Park, and Bare Island Fort and  
La Perouse in Botany Bay National Park.  
(9.30am or 10am-4.30pm daily, closed  
Christmas, Boxing, New Years Day)  
Sydney Harbour National Park,  
Information Centre, Cadmans Cottage,  
110 George St, The Rocks,  
phone 9247 5033

**SYDNEY WEST**

Enquiries re Western Sydney parks  
Level 1, 10 Valentine Ave, Parramatta,  
phone 9895 7420

**PARRAMATTA**

(8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri)  
Level 1, 10 Valentine Ave,  
phone 9895 7420

**RICHMOND**

(8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri)  
Bowmans Cottage, 370 Windsor St,  
phone 4588 2400

**WOLLONGONG**

(9am-3pm Mon-Fri)  
Ground floor, State Office Block,  
84 Crown St, phone 4223 3000

**SOUTH COAST  
& HIGHLANDS**

**BOMBALA**

(9am-12.30pm Mon-Fri)  
153 Maybe St, phone 6458 4080

**BUNGONIA**

Bungonia State Conservation Area  
838 Lookdown Rd, phone 4844 4277  
(Infoline 4844 4341)

**FITZROY FALLS**

(9am-5.30pm daily, closes at 5pm in  
winter, closed Christmas) Nowra Rd,  
phone 4887 7270

**JINDABYNE**

(8.30am-5pm daily,  
closed Christmas Day)  
Snowy Region Visitor Centre,  
Kosciuszko Rd, phone 6450 5600

**KHANCOBAN**

(9am-12pm & 1pm-4pm daily, extended  
hours in peak periods, closed Christmas  
Day) Khancoban Information Centre,  
Scott St, phone 6076 9373

**MERIMBULA**

(8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri)  
Cnr Merimbula Dr & Sapphire Coast Dr,  
phone 6495 5000

**MINNAMURRA**

(9am-5pm daily, closed Christmas Day)  
Minnamurra Rainforest Centre,  
Minnamurra Falls Rd, Jamberoo,  
phone 4236 0469

**NAROOMA**

(8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri)  
Cnr Graham and Burrawang St,  
phone 4476 0800

**NOWRA**

(8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri)  
55 Graham St, phone 4423 2170

**QUEANBEYAN**

(8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri)  
11 Farrer Plc, phone 6229 7000

**TUMUT**

(9am-5pm daily, closed Christmas Day)  
5 Adelong Rd, phone 6947 7025

**YARRANGOBILLY CAVES**

(9am-5pm daily, closed Christmas Day)  
6 km off Snowy Mountains Hwy,  
phone 6454 9597

**CENTRAL NSW**

**BARADINE**

(8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri)  
Wellington St, Barradine  
phone 6843 4000

**BATHURST**

(8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri)  
Level 2, 203-209 Russell St,  
phone 6332 7640

**COONABARABRAN**

(8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri)  
30 Timor St, phone 6842 1311  
or Visitor Centre (9am-4pm daily,  
closed Christmas Day)  
Warrumbungle National Park,  
phone 6825 4364

**DUBBO**

(8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri)  
phone 6841 0900

**FORBES**

(8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri)  
Government Office Building,  
Camp St, phone 6851 4429

**GRIFFITH**

(8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri)  
200 Yambil St, phone 6966 8100

**HILL END**

(9.30am-12.30pm,  
1.30-4.30pm daily,  
closed Christmas Day)  
Hill End Visitor Centre,  
phone 6337 8206

**MUDGEY**

(9am-4pm Mon-Thur)  
Shop 1, 160 Church St, phone 6372 7199

**NARRABRI**

(8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri)  
Level 1, 100 Maitland St,  
phone 6792 7300

**OVERON**

(9am-4.30pm Mon-Fri)  
38 Ross St, phone 6336 1972

**OUTBACK NSW**

**BOURKE**

(8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri)  
51 Oxley St, phone 6872 2744

**BROKEN HILL**

(8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri local time,  
9am-5pm EST) 183 Argent St,  
phone 08 8080 3200,

Paroo-Darling National Park Visitor  
Centre, (NSW time 8.30am-4.30pm)  
Keraro Rd, phone 08 8083 7900

**BURONGA**

(8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri,  
closed 12-1pm)  
Cnr Sturt Hwy & Melaleuca St,  
phone 03 5021 8900

**COBAR**

(8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri,  
closed 1-2pm)  
16-18 Barton St, phone 6836 2692

**TIBOOBURRA**

(8.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri)  
Briscoe St, phone 08 8091 3308



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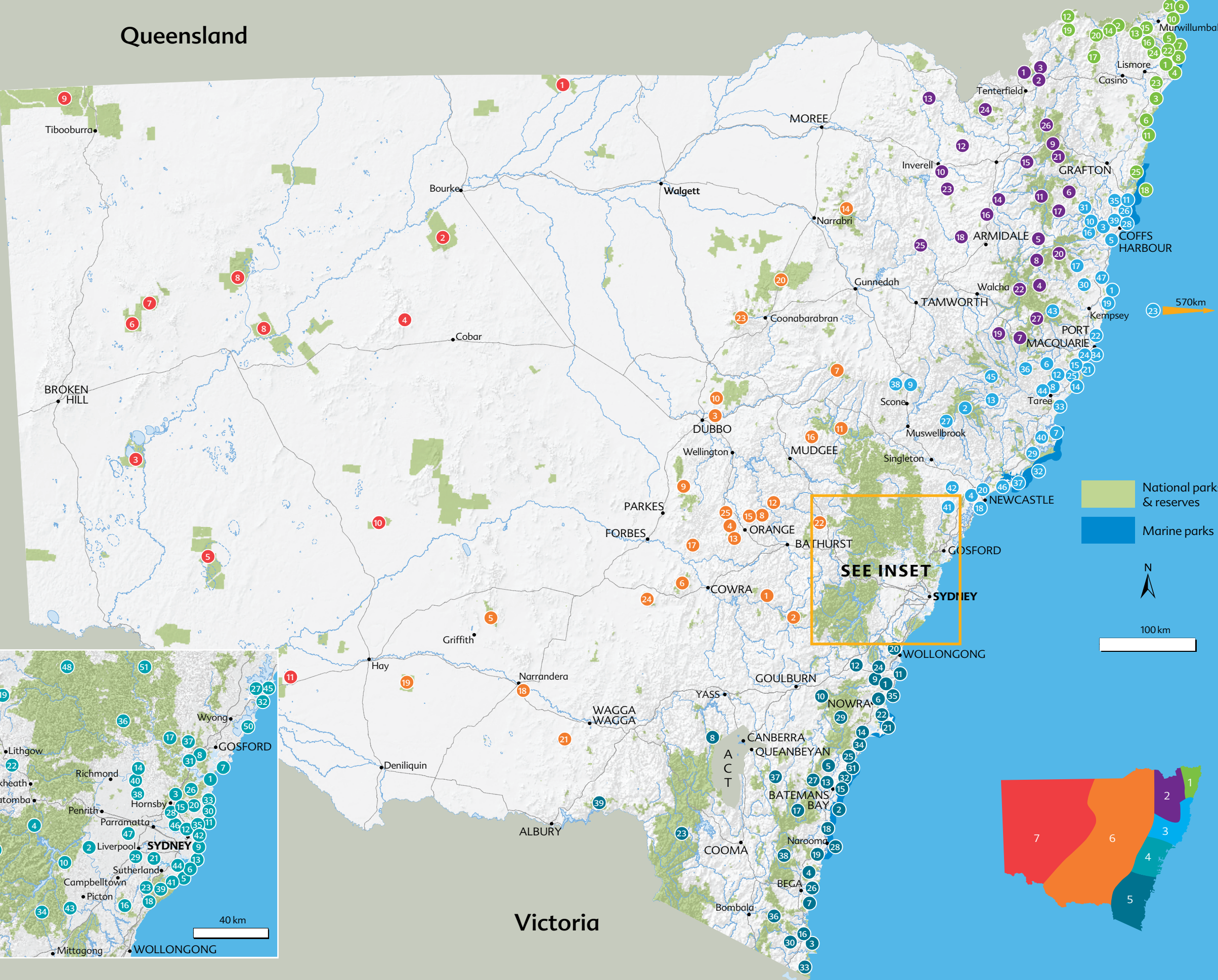
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For more information on your national parks and the activities available in them, you can phone the Environment Line for the price of a local call (mobiles excluded):

**call 1300 361 967 or visit**  
**[www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au) or**  
**[www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)**

NPWS is part of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW

Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this guide is accurate at the time of printing. DECCW welcomes suggestions for correction and improvement. Write to: Publishing Manager, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW, PO Box A290 Sydney South NSW 1232. DECCW cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions.

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Department of  
**Environment, Climate Change and Water** NSW

